

TGWU rejects Smith plan to weaken union power

■ Bill Morris, general secretary of the TGWU, warned modernisers in the Labour party: "We will not be moved"

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE transport workers' union delivered a blow to John Smith, the Labour leader, yesterday when it rejected his plan to reform the party.

The TGWU, the largest union affiliated to the Labour party, voted against the proposal to dilute union influence in the selection of parliamentary candidates and the party leader.

Bill Morris, the general secretary, earned a one-minute standing ovation at the union's biennial conference in Bournemouth when he warned Labour modernisers: "We will not be moved." In his most powerful speech of the week-long conference, Mr Morris criticised some Labour's front bench for not defending the party's links with unions.

Union members "bitterly resented" being portrayed as Labour's problem, he said. "The only doubts in the public's mind are caused by confusion because of the failure of senior Labour politicians to defend trade unionists," Mr Morris praised Mr Smith for identifying with recent union struggles, but he said: "We need a few more on the front bench to identify themselves with our struggle. If they did that, there would be no doubt in the public's mind."

Many Labour MPs said that they wanted to keep the union links but they were only interested in keeping the financial links, he said.

Supporters of one man vote (Omvov), including Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, and Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, are angry that Mr Smith has failed to come out fighting for the principle. Mr Smith is still insisting that Omvov must be applied to the selection of parliamentary candidates but

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Childminder wins right to smack her charges

JOHN MANNING



A case for punishment: a jubilant Anne Davis, left, is congratulated by Anne Forman, whose child was one of those she cared for, after a court's decision that she should be allowed to smack children in her charge (John Young writes). Magistrates in southwest London upheld a claim by Mrs Davis, 33, a former teacher and mother of two young daughters, that she had been wrongfully removed from Sutton council's list of registered childminders

because she refused to sign an undertaking not to use corporal punishment.

Mrs Davis described the decision as a victory for traditional wisdom and values. "It also shows that the practical and realistic approach taken by the vast majority of parents has been legally accepted as valid and workable."

The council had claimed that Mrs Davis was unfit to look after children because smacking was in breach of the Children Act 1989 and contravened a

health department guidance document. Her counsel, Howard Shaw, had argued that the council was interpreting the document as law, which it was not.

Roger Quinton, chairman of the bench, told the court: "Our common sense leads us to believe that there must be situations when a childminder registered by the local authority will smack a child." The council had attached disproportionate importance to the guidance document.

Women offered way from iron to board

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

THE prospect of housewives using their experience in ironing, cleaning and managing the family budget to gain diplomas was raised yesterday by David Hunt, the employment secretary.

Mr Hunt, who has cabinet responsibility for women, said that a track record in household management could help towards vocational qualifications and assist in finding paid work. He wanted to remind all concerned that many domestic

skills applied to the workplace. Mr Hunt said: "We must find some way of recognising the achievements of women in managing a home and a family. If a woman has run a home with four children, she's obviously a good manager. We are looking at ways we can recognise formally the qualifications of women in managing a home."

Officials said that Mr Hunt was not proposing a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in housework, but domestic skills could, under the "accreditation of previous

learning", count as a new qualification in business and administration or supervisory management.

An employment department spokeswoman said: "The idea that someone would come round and check the creases in the ironing is not really on. But if a woman were thinking of taking up a job in cookery or needlework, they could be assessed for a qualification in that area."

"Mr Hunt was wanting to take the opportunity to bridge the gap between home and work and say to women,

"Don't sell yourselves short. You have got skills you can use in the workplace." Many women have got wide experience of managing the household budget and that can be translated in office skills."

"For example, some of the elements of competence for NVQs in administration, business and commerce are 'maintain an established filing system', 'supply information for a specific purpose', 'make travel arrangements and book accommodation'. These are all activities that many women have usually dealt with."

Spending must be cut, says Lilley

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alongside President Clinton in proposing a deficit-cutting package. He scorned the uproar at Westminster as the result of "daft" speculation, adding that the government was not about to abolish the welfare state.

"Every developed country has to ensure that its welfare systems are run in a way and at a level they can afford. That is what we are trying to do," he said.

The report argues that the remorseless rise in benefit spending will continue, irrespective of rises or dips in unemployment, if there is no change in policy. Demographic changes, social attitudes and present housing policies would all contribute to boosting the social security budget from £74 billion in 1992-3 to at least £88 billion by 2000.

This is based on a projected 3.3 per cent real terms annual increase in benefit spending. If unemployment stays at three million, spending will rise to £93.1 billion by the end of the decade.

The report concentrates on three main areas of social security spending, which account for most of the predicted rise and where Mr Lilley is expected to target savings: invalidity benefit, lone parent benefit and housing benefit.

Invalidity benefit is set to rise from £6 billion to £9 billion by the end of the decade. Mr Lilley has already introduced stricter medical examinations for potential claimants and is expected to tighten this further this year. Other measures, including taxing the benefit, making it less generous and better targeted are expected to result in £600 million fewer claimants.

Spending on lone parents is also due to rise from £6 billion to about £9 billion by the turn of the century. Mr Lilley is pressing John Gummer, the environment secretary, to set up special hostels for single mothers in place of council houses. Another option is to make family break-up less financially viable.

The Child Support Agency set up in April is expected to save more than £500 million in its first year by chasing maintenance payments from absent fathers.

Housing benefit, which is paid to 4.3 million people is projected to jump from £7.3 billion this year to £11.1 billion by the end of the century. The rise is mainly due to government policy of deregulating the private rented sector and pushing up council rents.

In the foreword to the report, Mr Lilley says of his fundamental review of social security spending: "The aim is to improve the system; to make it better focused to protect the vulnerable; to ensure that we have all the means to cope with the needs and contingencies of modern life and to make sure the system does not outstrip the nation's ability to pay."

"It is not possible for the system to grow more rapidly than the economy as a whole. If the underlying growth in the



Lilley: targets three areas of welfare

system remains above the growth of the economy and above that which can be afforded for public expenditure as a whole, other public expenditure programmes will be bound to suffer."

Mr Lilley admitted that in the short term there was very little that could be done about the level of social security spending. Speaking on *Channel 4 News* he said that he wanted a public debate about longer-term problems.

"We can't do nothing. We can't leave the system unreformed as it will eventually collapse under its own weight and that will be a betrayal of those members of society who depend on the welfare state."

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Crucial days for transplant test baby

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Dr Ray Powles, a haematologist at the hospital, said the next four days would be crucial. "Hal is desperately ill. We will take each day as it comes. If we can get through the next week, that will be terrific," he said.

The team from Harefield Hospital and the Royal Marsden is hoping the bone marrow infection will have two effects. As well as inducing tolerance to the transplanted heart, it will correct the enzyme deficiency which caused Hal's own heart to fail.

His parents, Robin and Desiree Brodhurst, from Putney, London, were both unsuspecting carriers of a genetic defect. Hal ended up with a deficient chromosome from each parent, giving him Pompe's disease. He is unable to make the enzyme alpha-glucosidase needed to break up glycogen, which accumulates in his body.

The bone marrow Hal was given came from the same baby who donated the heart. "Hal's immune system will destroy about 98-99 per cent of the bone marrow cells," Dr Mehta said. "But one to two per cent will survive, either because his system does not recognise them as foreign or because in some way he becomes tolerant to them."

Studies by Dr Thomas Starzl, of the Transplantation Institute of the University of Pittsburgh, showed that patients with enzyme deficiencies who had liver transplants did far better than expected — because the liver had carried cells that spread through the body and were able to correct the enzyme deficiency.

In some cases, the cells also reduced the tendency to reject the foreign organ. Betty Baird, 34, a woman with a liver transplant, got so fed up with the mood swings induced by immunosuppressive drugs that she flushed them down the toilet. To her doctors' surprise, she suffered no ill-effects. Dr Starzl believes that this was because cells from the transplanted liver had migrated to other parts of her body and promoted harmony.

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Mere words fail to tell the full story

Paddy Ashdown made a tiny but revealing mistake yesterday. Let me give you the facts. See if you agree.

It was PM's questions. With Major in Tokyo, the House leader stood in. Ashdown wanted action to save Sarajevo. Having referred to a G7 statement reaffirming support for Bosnian Muslims, Ashdown meant to say:

"Does he think mere words from the Tokyo summit will be sufficient to save them?"

But this was not what he said. It came out thus:

"Does he think more words from the Tokyo summit — er, mere words from the summit — will be... (etc)."

A trivial slip? Indeed. "More" would have served as well, but for some reason he wanted to correct it. Had he perhaps misread? Now here's what intrigued me. Ashdown was not reading. He was speaking apparently impromptu, no notes anywhere in sight. Yet this slip was a reading-aloud error, otherwise it is hard to explain his making it, or bothering to correct it. So where were the notes? I advance three theories, starting with the most fantastic.

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Panciful? Less so is the theory that Ashdown carries a screen within his

Evil railway fanatic given four life sentences showed callous arrogance but no remorse

Kidnapper Sams found guilty of Julie Dart murder

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN OBSESSION with trains and railways was the foundation on which Michael Sams, who was given four life sentences yesterday for murder and kidnapping, built his campaign to commit the perfect crime. It would have provided enough money to let him escape his troubled third marriage and carry the bonus of humiliating the West Yorkshire police.

Mr Justice Judge at Nottingham Crown Court described him as "an extremely dangerous and evil man" who would have been ready to murder Stephanie Slater, the kidnapped estate agent, in exactly the same way as he had disposed of his first victim, Julie Dart, 18.

The judge said: "Undeterred by the horror of what you had done, you tried to turn her death to your advantage. The letters that you wrote make chilling reading, no qualms, no remorse, heartless at the grief you caused. Instead, there was misplaced pride, callous arrogance... You are, and will remain, a menace to the community. There is an urgent need to protect the public from you."

Early in 1991, when trouble hit both Sams's marriage and business, the long-nurtured idea of a spectacular kidnap was hatched. He had already considered using an old railway track for a ransom drop and discovered the ideal loca-



Victim: Julie Dart murdered in 1991

tion as he exercised his dog along the Dove Valley Trail, a disused line converted for rambles in South Yorkshire. He was struck by the way it drove deep into isolated countryside, yet regularly crossed the modern transport arteries of road and motorway. It suggested a method of creating a safe collection point, free from observation or pursuit, yet providing a ready means of escape.

He selected the Royal Insurance group first, choosing one of their agencies in Crewe, Cheshire. There then followed a spate of activity as Sams sought to refine his plans. Early in June that year, he tried to abduct a prostitute from the Chapelton district of Leeds. Mary, as police later identified her, fought off his assault and the kidnap failed at its first hurdle.

On June 26, he made his

first attempt to put his grand plot into operation, arranging a meeting in Crewe but, after seeing a police patrol, he aborted his plans.

On July 4, he tried again, making an appointment with Carol Jones, an estate agent, but again had to abandon the plot after a chance conversation with Ian Jones, a builder working near by.

In July, Miss Dart was kidnapped. Soon afterwards, the first stencilled note arrived at Leeds police HQ, demanding £140,000 for her release and threatening to firebomb a big store in a city centre.

Things went wrong. Miss Dart suffered from claustrophobia and police believe she became violent or hysterical when Sams attempted to put her in the coffin-like box he had devised to hold his hostage.

She was killed and her naked body dumped in a Lincolnshire field close to the east coast main line, 20 miles from Sams's home, where it was found ten days after her disappearance. Forensic evidence was later to link her body with his workshop where she was held.

Sams taunted police with a series of threatening letters and sent them on convoluted ransom runs after stencilled instructions left in payphones. One failed because of a jammed phone.

There were further threats to derail trains and kidnap prostitutes.

He then reverted to his "No 1 plan" of kidnapping an estate agent and chose Shipways agency at Sutton Coldfield in the West Midlands.

This time, there were no distractions and Miss Slater found herself in the same box and wheeled bin that Miss Dart had occupied six months previously with a £175,000 ransom on her life.

Her boss, Kevin Watts, was the courier, following instructions telephoned by Sams to his office and wearing a bullet-proof vest for his protection.



Jane Hammond, Sams's second wife, at their wedding in 1978, and Stephanie Slater, far right, with a friend after the verdict yesterday



Again there was a railway station to start from, this time Glossop in Derbyshire. Again, the courier was bounced from stencilled message to stencilled message to shake off pursuit. Eventually, on an icy, foggy night, he found himself on a lonely lane in South

Yorkshire. With visibility less than five yards, he left the money on a tray at the roadside and Sams pulled it down below the bridge. But the weather wrecked the careful police surveillance and Sams escaped with the £175,000 ransom. The subse-

quent release of Miss Slater gave detectives important new clues about her abductor but they were no nearer an identity.

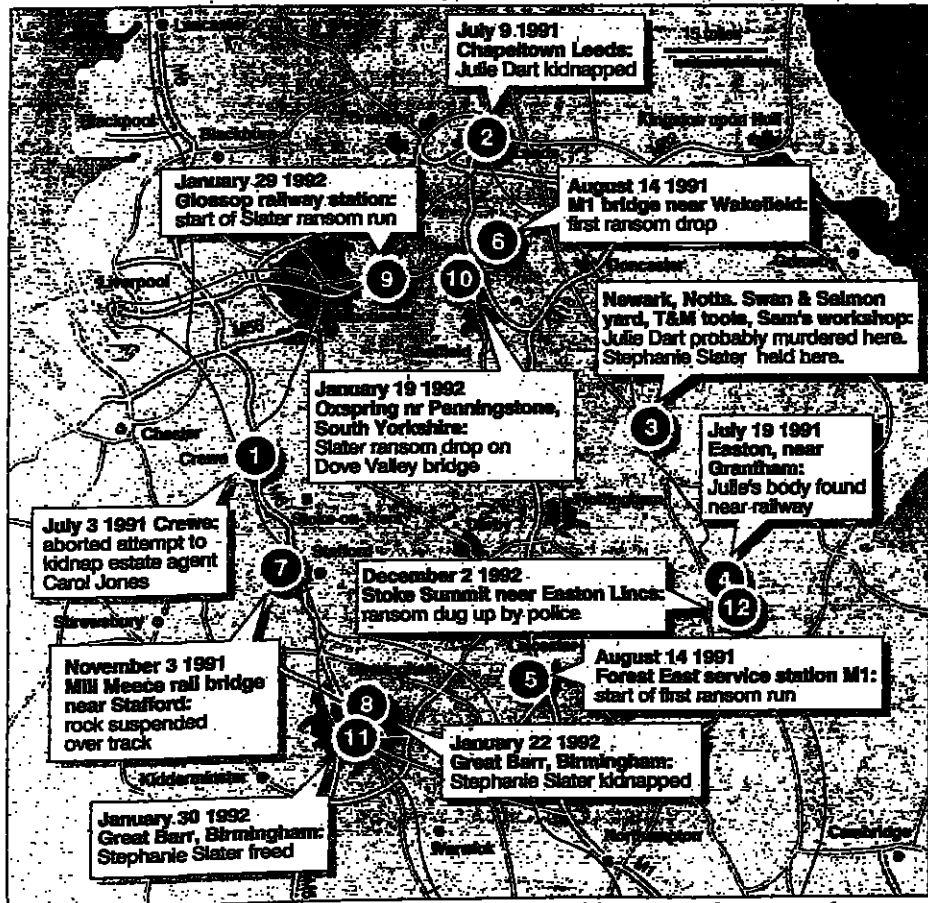
So, less than two weeks later, it was decided to appeal for public help on BBC TV's *Crimewatch*. Susan Oakes, Sams's first wife, saw it.

Details of a man obsessed with railways alerted her, his artificial leg added to her suspicions, and the sound of his voice from the messages to Miss Slater's employers convinced her that it was her former husband. Her call told

police the kidnapper was the father of her two children Robert and Charles. He was Michael Sams, the man she had divorced in 1977. Within 24 hours, he was in custody and had already confessed to kidnapping Miss Slater.

Do you want to know more about the man who kidnapped Julie Dart? Then read this book. It tells you everything you need to know about the man who kidnapped Julie Dart. It tells you everything you need to know about the man who kidnapped Julie Dart. It tells you everything you need to know about the man who kidnapped Julie Dart.

Menacing: part of one of Sams's ransom notes



Troubled failure tried to banish years of failure

By PAUL WILKINSON

MICHAEL Sams had hoped the success of his crime would expunge the mediocrity of a troubled life.

He had two failed marriages behind him and his third was on the rocks. One business had collapsed and his tool repairing venture was in trouble. He had had a brief spell in prison for petty car crime, and even a talent for cross-country running had ended when cancer meant the loss of a leg.

Michael Benniman Sams was born on August 11, 1941, in Keighley, West Yorkshire. His father was a munitions worker, George Benniman, by whom his mother Iris became pregnant while her husband, Ernest Sams, was serving with the army. Sams's intelligence earned him a grammar school place, but his studies were hampered by dyslexia, and its effects in his ransom notes were to help in tracking him

down. After school he joined the merchant navy briefly before returning to work for a lift company and then train as a heating engineer. At 22 he married Susan Little, a textile worker and the woman who almost 30 years later recognised a recording of his voice. They have two sons, Robert, 24, and Charles, 22.

Friends described Sams as "a go-getter" in his early days, and he was just 29 when he set up his own business to maintain heating installations. But that ended after only two years. One man who knew him during the sixties described Sams as "well-liked, quiet and easy-going. He never got worked up. He was always calm."

Sams and his wife moved to a smart house at Oakworth near Haworth, but they separated in 1976 and divorced the next year. Soon after, he was sentenced to nine months in Armley Jail,

Leeds, for taking a car, re-spraying it and making a false insurance claim.

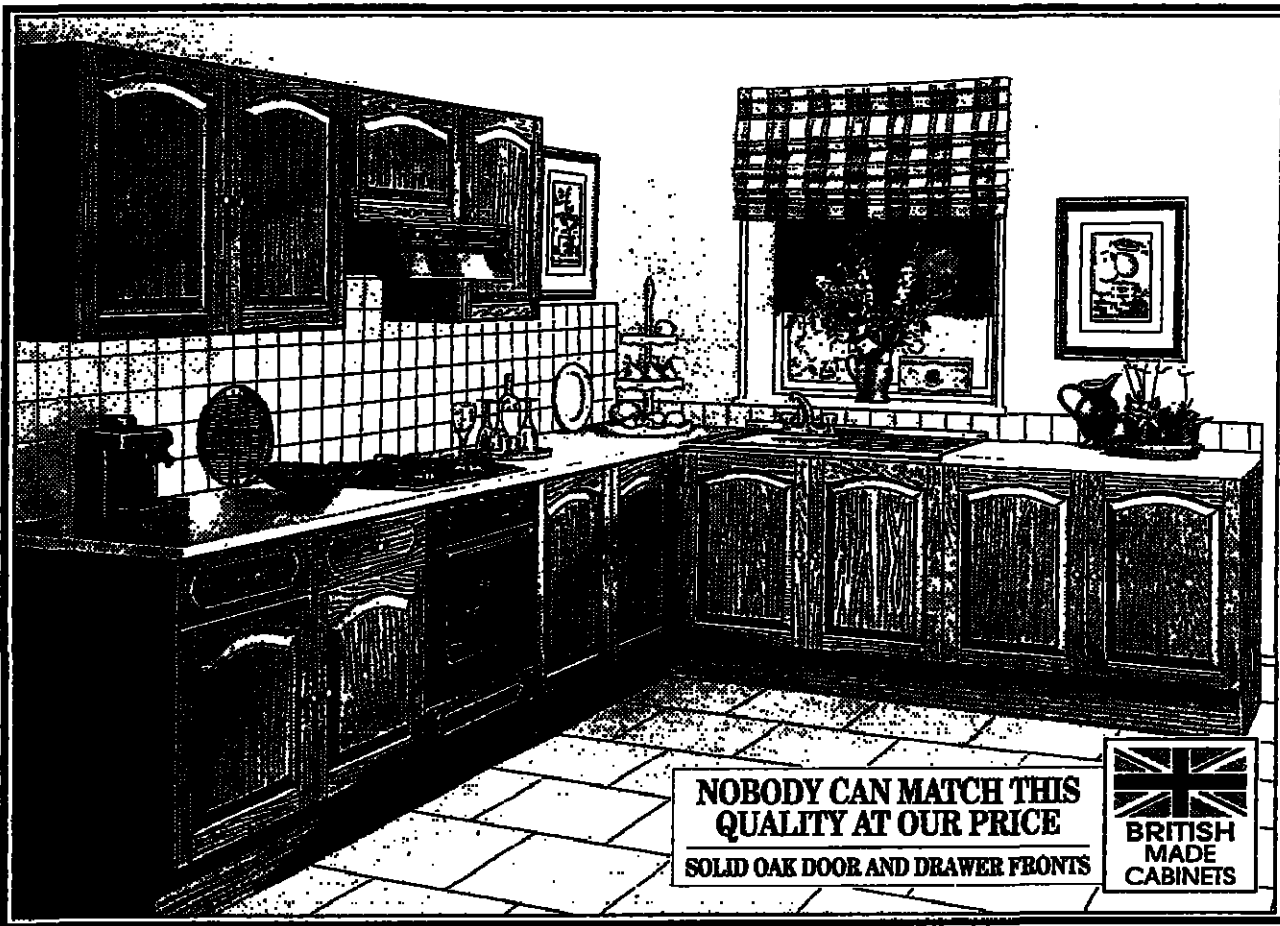
On his release from prison he remarried, but his relationship with Jane Hammond, a catering student, lasted less than three years.

In January 1980, he worked for Black and Decker, first in Leeds and then in the Midlands, taking voluntary redundancy in 1985 and setting up his own electrical tool repair business in Peterborough. In 1988, he married his present wife Tessa, 43. She had a son, 19, from a previous marriage, but he died eight weeks after the wedding.

The couple moved in 1989 to a large bungalow at Sutton on Trent, where Sams was able to set out his model railway, which had 20 locomotives. He also set up T and M Tools, in former pub buildings in Newark called Swan and Salmon Yard. It was there that Sams held the two women captive.

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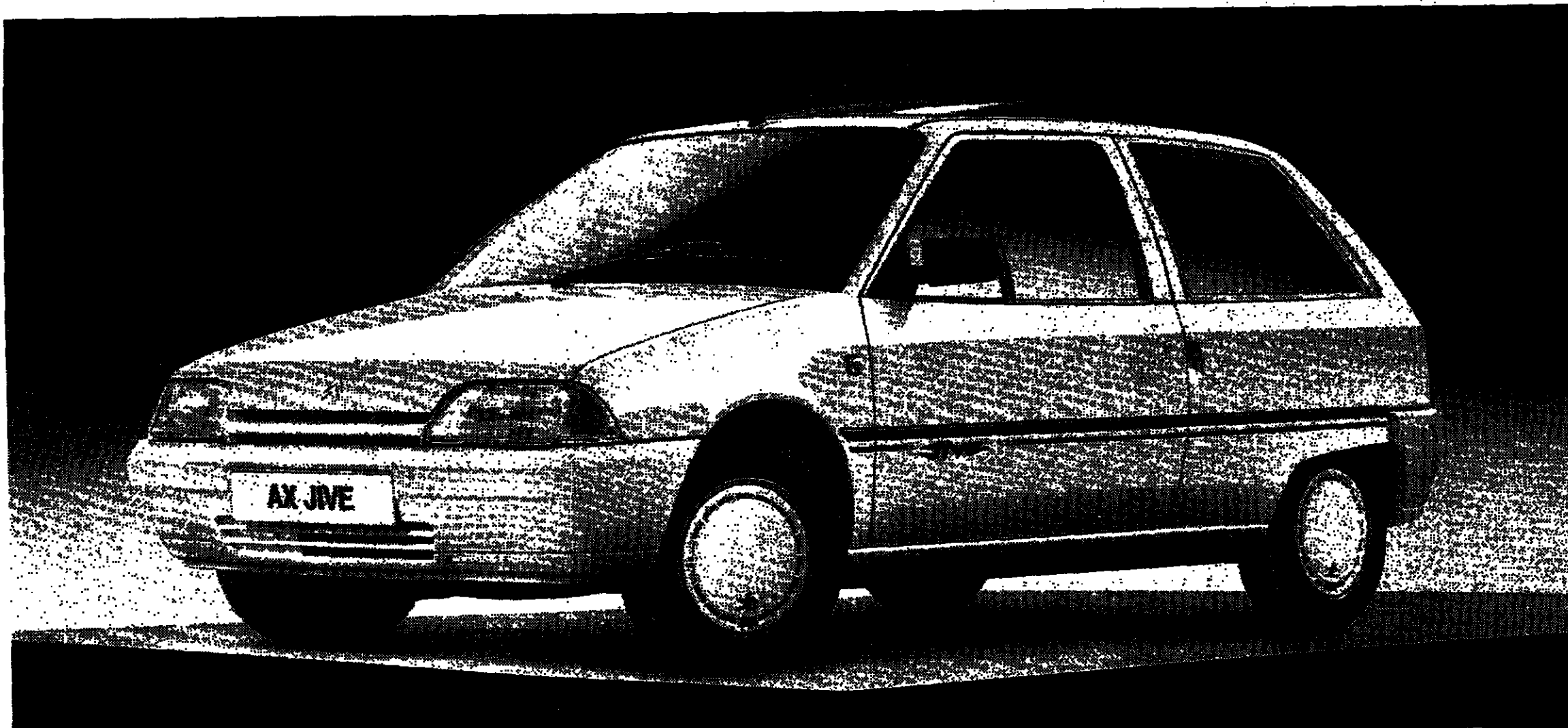
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سكدا من رلاهل

Fixed smiles abound as Raine weds

Sightseers speculated and photographers scrapped as Countess Spencer and Count de Chambrun wed. Alan Hamilton writes

THE scene was calculated to melt the heart of a concrete mixer, but went slightly wrong. And yet it didn't, really. The marriage of Raine, Countess Spencer, to Count Jean-François Pinet de Chambrun at Westminster register office yesterday would have been incomplete without a photographers' bonfire.

"Please, please, we want to have a lovely, calm wedding," squeaked the countess through a smile as fixed as her miraculously petrified hairstyle. The count wore an expression hovering between exasperated and terrified.

It was, of course, their own fault, or possibly design. Police were on hand to ensure an orderly procession up the steps of Westminster City Hall through a ceremonial arch of paparazzi lenses. Twenty minutes before the ceremony, a lorry dumped crash barriers on the pavement. Curious, therefore, that the couple should stop their Rolls-Royce, which belonged to the late Earl Spencer, 20 yards away and attempt a walkabout.

Photographers engulfed them at once. The walkabout was halted by an anthropoid mass whose viewfinders could have contained little beyond each other's elbows. "We want to get married. Please let us get married," the countess whined. The count clung to her arm, as obedient, loyal but helpless as a Labrador trying to lead a blind woman through a thicket. Photographers punched each other; policemen prised them apart.

At last, on the steps, the couple emerged. The countess wore a black net hat decorated with cloth butterflies and a silk print dress, also swarming with multi-coloured lepidoptera. She clutched a bouquet of red, white and

yellow roses. There was some debate among the crowd about whether a wedding dress that reached only to the knee could be properly described as a gown. The count wore charcoal grey, which could properly be described as a suit.

"These sort look so young until you see them in the flesh. I've come to see if she's wearing Polyfilla," a grandmother in the crowd said. After a sighting, she said: "Nothing out of the ordinary. Loads of make-up. Just like her mother. I'll give it a year."

The usual marriage room had been ruled out by Raine as too formal. Instead, they were married in the Lord Mayor of Westminster's retiring room. Only ten guests attended.

They emerged smiling, but only after a ten-minute delay to pose for a privileged photographer allowed inside to record the happy scene for the French magazine *Point de Vue*, which has paid £75,000 for the exclusive wedding pictures. Inevitably, the British rights have been bought by *Hello!* magazine.

Mummy was waiting for them at Claridge's. Mummy was initially enthusiastic over her 63-year-old daughter's third marriage to a 57-year-old man who has been married only once before. Now Mummy is not so sure. From beneath her purple hat, and from the voluminous folds of her floral dress, Dame Barbara Cartland, on the eve of her 92nd birthday, declared on the steps of Claridge's yesterday afternoon: "At the moment, they are madly in love. We can only pray for them." Observers were left to make of that what they might.

Photograph, page 1
Hello! marriage, page 14

Shoplifter 'turned on' by chase

A MOTHER of three could only achieve sexual satisfaction through shoplifting, and being chased by police, a court was told yesterday.

Dr Neil Brenner, a psychologist, told Chichester Crown Court in West Sussex that uniforms, police interviews, flashing blue lights and sirens turned on Julie Amiri, 35. He said that Amiri's obsession drove her to embark on shoplifting expeditions to gain attention and sexual gratification.

Nicholas Hall, for the prosecution, said the disorder came to light when Amiri was arrested after a police car chase following thefts from two stores in Worthing.

He said: "She says that this is the way she gets her orgasms," but he claimed Amiri had invented the obsession to excuse her thieving.

Amiri, of Staines, Surrey, who denied two charges of theft from British Home Stores and Marks & Spencer last year, told the court: "I had my first orgasm in the back of a police car, aged 28. After that I was around the shops every day. The security in Marks & Spencer is really good and it makes it more exciting."

Minister clashes with psychiatrists on care

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

VIRGINIA Bottomley distanced herself yesterday from psychiatrists calling for compulsory treatment for mentally ill patients discharged from hospital. The health secretary retained an open mind on how patients should be placed under community supervision orders to ensure they followed treatment programmes.

Girl raped after bus drives off

By RICHARD DUCE

A GIRL aged 14 who was turned away by a bus driver because she was 2p short of the fare was raped as she walked home, police said yesterday. Two youths tried to lure the girl back to a flat in south London, but when she refused they dragged her into a nearby park and raped her.

The girl had been turned away from the bus in Peckham, southeast London, last Sunday and was walking home towards the Elephant and Castle area when she was accosted by the youths in Camberwell.

London Central Bus Company is investigating the incident and the driver could face disciplinary action. Bus company rules stipulate that a child under the age of 16 should not be turned away but their name and address taken and a ticket issued.

The girl first caught a bus going in the wrong direction before being turned off the second bus at about 10pm. Thirty minutes later, she was attacked on the north side of Camberwell Green.

Police have interviewed two youths aged 17 and 18 and both have been bailed pending further enquiries.

Dinosaurs conquer the young generation

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

STEVEN Spielberg's latest screen hit, *Jurassic Park*, is prompting thousands of children to visit the dinosaur exhibition at the Natural History Museum in London.

Publicity for the film is such that after the premiere next Thursday, the museum says visitors might have to queue for more than three hours to see the massive bones and life-size models.

"Dinosaurs", a permanent exhibition in the Ronson gallery which was opened in April last year at a cost of £23 million, is expected to attract at least 100,000 extra people as a result of the Spielberg film, which features the prehistoric monsters in the present day.

In the darkened gallery yesterday, scores of five and six-year-olds shrieked with delight as a recumbent robotic *Tenontosaurus* was ripped apart by three predatory *Deinonychus*, blood dripping from their jaws.

On a nearby walkway, children peered with a mixture of fascination and fear into the jaws of the monstrous *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

The whole experience seemed to have struck a chord with Ben Elwell, six, of Hounslow, west London, who said excitedly: "I like dinosaurs because they are



Eye teeth: four-year-old Mathew Kent, from Wokingham, Berkshire, examines T. rex's dental details at the museum yesterday

really big and dead and here you can see them with their skin on and also just their bones."

Gail McKenzie, spokeswoman for the South Ken-

sington museum, said: "We are already far busier than normal for this time of year with more than 1,200 children visiting on school trips every day. Once the film is on

nationwide release and the schools have finished, we expect quarter-mile queues at peak times."

The trustees have organised three lectures by Dr Jack

Horner, the Montana palaeontologist who acted as scientific adviser for *Jurassic Park*, when it opens.

Dinosaur-related merchandise accounts for £1 million

sales a year and half of all the goods sold at the museum, which has to generate 30 per cent of its £40 million running costs from entrance fees and merchandising.

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Arts Council cuts cash lifeline to top orchestras

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

THE Arts Council announced yesterday its intention to fund only two of London's four orchestras, signalling the start of a fight to become London's second super-orchestra.

While the London Symphony Orchestra's future is secure, the remaining three orchestras face a battle for funding. The London Philharmonic, resident at the South Bank Centre, the Philharmonia and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra have been asked to submit competitive bids to the Arts Council. From April 1994, the two losers will not be subsidised while the winner will receive an enhanced grant. Although it is unlikely that the losers will fold without subsidy, programmes will be reduced and standards are unlikely to be maintained.

The council has judged the LSO's standards to be higher than the others, however, and it will automatically receive enhanced funding. Anthony Everitt, secretary-

■ The London Symphony Orchestra is secure, but a new subsidy scheme will radically alter the capital's musical life

general of the Arts Council, said: "What we are after is two great orchestras at the very height of international prowess, expertise and reputation, instead of four which we can no longer support at an adequate level." Sir Leonard Hoffmann, a judge and member of the English National Opera board, has been appointed head of a committee to consider the bids. Two of the three threatened orchestras may seek to merge in order to win the contest. But the Royal Philharmonic seemed to be making a pre-emptive strike with a re-launched logo and slogan.

Last year the Arts Council gave £1,128,500 to the London Philharmonic, £1,128,500 to the LSO, £711,500 to the Philharmonia and £400,000 to the RPO. The sums represent from 7 to 20 per cent of each orchestra's annual turnover.

The Arts Council's threat to the London Philharmonic's residency at the South Bank caused some bewilderment in the arts world. The council had helped set up the residency and an independent committee gave it to the orchestra, which received enhanced funding from the council because of its new home.

Nicholas Snowman, chief executive of the South Bank, backed the Arts Council's "decisiveness", however. He said that London's orchestras had long been in need of reorganisation.

There was also anger yesterday at the Arts Council's decision to cut its drama budget by 3.6 per cent, the equivalent of £1.4 million, while increasing the amount given to contemporary dance and the visual arts.

Simon Mundy, chairman of the National Campaign for

the Arts, said: "You have to ask whether the benefit to audiences will be greater by cutting into the regional theatre fabric in order to give relatively small amounts of extra money to these other areas."

Further cuts will be made if the government's proposed £5 million reduction in next year's council's budget goes ahead. A list of about ten theatrical bodies has been drawn up by the council: six are victims of a council review and four of government cuts. Although the list has not been made public, it is thought to include the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry, the Octagon Theatre Trust in Bolton, the Young Vic Company in Bristol, the Oldham Coliseum Theatre, the Watford Civic Theatre Trust and the Greenwich Theatre in London.

The list has provoked controversy within the Arts Council, with advisers in the drama department complaining at lack of consultation and privately dissociating themselves from it.

Richard Morrison, page 16



Some shows go on: stars of the London revival of *Hair*—Sinitta, left, Paul Medford and Pepsi—which will open at The Old Vic on September 14, 25 years to the month after the musical's London premiere

BBC explores 'pay or be switched off' digital television

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is exploring the introduction of technology that could switch off signals transmitted to homes without a television licence.

Patricia Hodgson, the corporation's director of policy and planning, told the heritage committee's enquiry into the future of the BBC that the development would be made possible by the introduction of digital television.

But she said that the system would not be fair until every household had replaced its existing analogue sets with digital televisions—a process that could take up to 15 years.

Digital television would enhance picture quality and increase the number of channels to about 100. It should be available in Britain within the next two years.

Ms Hodgson defended the licence fee as the best way of funding the BBC. "Ninety-six per cent of UK households tune into BBC television and radio for an average of 50 hours per week," she said. "Being a universal service, there is a strong argument for a universal payment system."

The corporation admitted that greater sensitivity was needed in dealing with people who evaded the licence fee.

According to BBC figures, 2.4 million of the 22 million households which require a television licence do not have one—costing the corporation between £150 and £180 million in lost revenue. Only one in seven evaders is prosecuted.

Rodney Baker-Bates, the BBC's director of finance, said that the BBC would be piloting a monthly payments scheme in October, allowing people to pay in cash instalments.

Giving evidence to MPs on behalf of the Justices' Clerks' Society, Nicholas Stevens said that non-payment of the licence fee should be changed from a criminal to a civil offence. He recommended the introduction of a fixed penalty system for offenders.

Mr Stevens said he had no confidence in the present system for enforcing licence fee payment. "Since the majority of surveillance appears to be undertaken during daytime hours, it is often women who are prosecuted when their partners share an equal responsibility," he said.

An alternative, Mr Stevens said, would be to abolish the licence fee and make BBC viewers join a subscription service by which they paid for programmes they watched.

Father shot himself dead after girl's party

By A STAFF REPORTER

A STOCKBROKER killed himself with a shotgun minutes after enjoying his daughter's second birthday party, an inquest heard yesterday.

Some of the party guests, including his parents, were still mingling downstairs when Michael Trimm, 31, went to his study, put the shotgun to the roof of his mouth and pulled the trigger.

The inquest was told that Mr Trimm, of Mark Cross near Crowborough, East Sussex, was more than three times the drink-drive limit when he killed himself on June 3.

However, his widow Linda, who is expecting the couple's second child in December, refused to accept the coroner's verdict of suicide. She said her husband had "everything to live for" and would not have orphaned his daughter Louise.

She said after the hearing at Eastbourne Magistrates' Court: "He just would not have done it. Even if he did do it, his mind must have been completely disturbed. We were very happy and he had everything to live for."

Mrs Trimm told the inquest they had been renovating their property. "It was just getting to the state he wanted. A couple of days before he died, he was saying how blissful it was. He was hoping for a son."

Frederick Trimm, of Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, told the inquest his son had joined his firm in 1989 and had become a partner, quadrupling profits. "He was a perfectly balanced young man with an outstanding future."

Catholics call in Anglican mediator

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE wife of an Anglican bishop has been called in to help resolve a dispute over proposed changes to the Roman Catholic cathedral in Plymouth. The plans include a baptism for total immersion, normally associated with Baptist churches, a central altar and replacing pews with chairs facing each other.

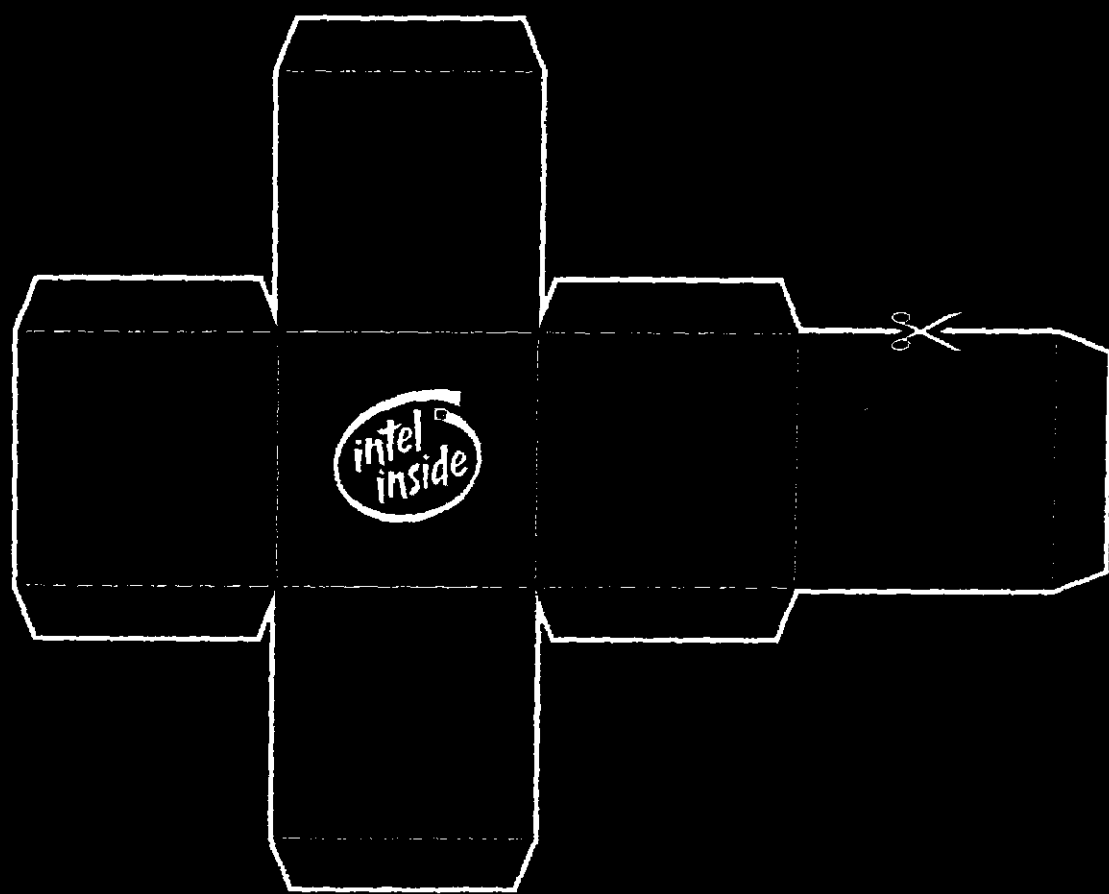
Joy Thompson, a psychotherapist who is married to the Anglican Bishop of Exeter, was asked by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth, the Right Rev Christopher Budd, to "help people through their anger and fear" after dozens of parishioners refused to accept the changes.

Today's *Catholic Herald* reports that Mrs Thompson and Bob Harris, a group therapist from Plymouth, were invited to take part in a meeting between objectors and the bishop to heal the rift. Bishop Budd's secretary, Fr Denis Collin, said that the therapists had since recommended further meetings.

An anonymous parishioner is quoted in the *Herald* as having misgivings about the therapy. "I was incensed. With all the learned people in the Catholic faith, why does he go to the wife of an Anglican bishop? But she seemed to be on our side. She went back to the bishop and told him there was no anger, but that we felt misunderstood."

Fr Collin said the aim was to gather people "around Word and altar". "Down here, many people just do not want to change," he said.

How to MAKE AN ORDINARY COMPUTER



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مركز المعلومات

Activists learn to put local issues in national spotlight

Triumph at Oxleas wood inspires new road protests

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE successful battle to save Oxleas wood in southeast London has put green power back on the national stage, with scores of anti-road building groups vowing to apply the activist tactics honed during the eight-year campaign.

John Stewart, of the Alliance Against Road Building (Alarm), an umbrella organisation for road protest groups, said the techniques used to put a local issue in the national spotlight would become a blueprint for battles against the £22 billion national roads programme.

Yesterday, Alarm's telephone was busy with groups seeking advice in the light of the government's decision to review the East London River Crossing.

Mr Stewart said: "I told them if it can be done here it can be done anywhere. This has been the encouragement many of them needed."

Up to 160 beauty spots and sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) are affected by the roads programme and local action groups have or are being formed to fight each one. Yesterday, Friends of the

'It was a strategic move... to make the wood a national flashpoint and the most famous one in the country'

Earth published details of where the next flashpoints can be expected. These include the A5 Dunstable bypass, which runs through Bluff's Down, a Bedfordshire SSSI, which is home to scarce flowers such as the bee orchid.

The Kidderminster, Blackdown and Hagley bypass, Hereford and Worcester, threatens Hurcott and Podmore pools and area rich in wetlands vegetation such as touch-me-not balsam.

Staines moor in Surrey, also an SSSI, is threatened by the proposed M25 link and feeder roads. Tony Juniper, senior habitats campaigner, said all such schemes needed reviewing in the light of the Oxleas decision.

The success of the Oxleas campaign could hardly have been imagined when, in the mid-1980s, a handful of residents in Plumstead, southeast London, joined to oppose a ring road that would demolish homes.

By the early 1980s, after the government's decision to turn the plan into the East London River Crossing, the campaign

had united many disparate local groups under People Against the River Crossing (Parr).

The group, whose figureheads included Dr Barry Gray, a chest specialist at King's College Hospital, made the decision to focus the campaign on the destruction of the ancient wood.

Mr Stewart said: "Two public enquiries had been lost and it was now in the national roads programme. It was a strategic move... to make the wood a national flashpoint and the most famous one in the country."

A decision was also made to bring a court action against the transport department and to lodge complaints with the European Commission.

"I do not believe anyone really believed the cases could be won but they gave the campaign publicity, helped generate funds and delayed the scheme to build up momentum," Mr Stewart said.

Other tactics included activists with banners attending any meetings at which the transport and environment secretaries were present, including the Earth Summit in Rio last year.

As the campaign grew, it attracted the purses and expertise of the national groups such as Friends of the Earth and WWF. Until then, the campaign had been funded mainly by local people, Greenwich Council and private donations.

Dr Gray emphasised that the fight had not been cheap. He estimates it must have cost the council alone about £1 million and "many hundreds of thousands of man hours for campaigners".

Some groups said yesterday they were already taking on board the lessons learnt from Oxleas wood.

Dave Coates, of Sink the Link, which was set up to fight a scheme linking the M62 and the M1 in West Yorkshire, said the group had been working with Oxleas and the failed Twyford Down campaigners in Hampshire. The group has won wide support from local MPs, parish councillors, farmers and wildlife enthusiasts through a public opinion survey.

Mr Coates, 56, a retired telecommunications engineer from Flockton, said: "Those people who were not green before have now become green."

He said the only real bone of contention was whether they invited groups such as Earth First, a militant but non-violent, green group that has been cultivated by Alarm to become part of the protest strategy.

Flat or round, fish fits the barbecue world

By A STAFF REPORTER

FISH is plentiful and down in price. Cod and haddock are in prime condition and fillets are selling at about £2.80 a lb.

Flat fish, too, is firmer and thicker than it has been for months and lemon sole is particularly well priced at about £2.30 a lb. Tesco is selling Dover sole at £3.98 a lb, while Harrods has rainbow trout at £1.65 a lb. Imported tuna, swordfish and marlin, ideal for barbecuing, are all down in price, averaging £3 a lb frozen and £5 fresh.

Barbecue shoppers at Sainsbury's are being given an extra 25 per cent free on premium sausages (a £1.49, 1lb packet will contain 20oz).

The chain has also cut the price of frozen pork chops by 50p to £3.49 for 3lb.

Pork remains the cheapest meat, with Sainsbury's selling boneless leg roasts for £1.39 a lb. Gateway has some good lamb bargains, with shoulder selling for £1.19 a lb, a reduction of 30p.

New season British broccoli is at its best. The warm weather after a wet spring has produced a succulent crop for between 65p and 85p a lb.

Galia melons are in prime condition and should cost no more than 80p each.

Advertised best buys: Asda: lamb chops, £2.98 a lb; lamb steaks, £3.38 a lb; turkey breast steaks, £1.89 a lb; garlic

basted chicken, £2.39 each; mushrooms, 99p a lb.

Gateway & Somerfield: pork loin chops, £1.19 a lb; whole or half lamb shoulder, £1.19 a lb; chicken thighs, 99p a lb; red plums, 59p a lb; tomatoes, 29p a lb.

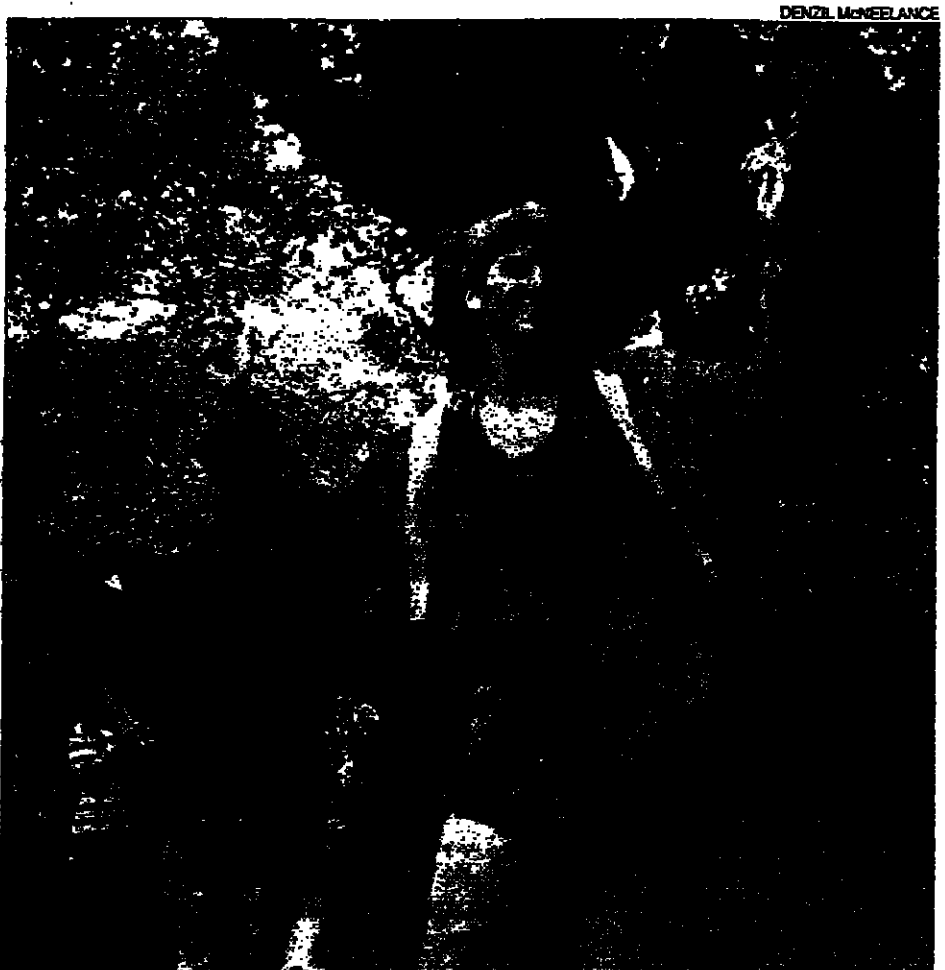
Harrods: whole smoked chicken, £2.15 a lb; rainbow trout, £1.65 a lb; turkey and ham pie, £3.95 a lb; large Italian figs, £7.50 a lb; white American cherries, £6.50 a lb; Icelandic pork chops, £1.59 for four; chicken quarters, £2.99 for 5lb; pork & beef sausages, £1.69 for eight baby caryns, 69p for 2lb; broccoli florets, £1.39 for 2lb.

Sainsbury's: boneless leg of pork, £1.39 a lb; Italian ham, 85p for 4oz; white seedless grapes, £1.19 a lb; red plums, 65p a lb; Sturmer apples, 39p a lb.

Sainsbury's: chicken quarters, 84p for two; red dessert apples, 24p a lb; new potatoes, 9p a lb; mangoes, 49p each; gala melons, 39p each.

Tesco: stewing steak, £1.48 a lb; pork barbecue ribs, £1.69 a lb; Dover sole, £3.98 a lb; salmon steaks, £3.95 a lb; large pineapple, 99p; new potatoes, 9p a lb.

Waitrose: lamb - shoulder chops, £1.99 a lb; beef prime mince, £1.59 a lb; pork spare ribs, £1.49 a lb; rainbow trout, £1.89 a lb; lychees, £1.99 a lb; broad beans, 39p a lb.



Dancing for joy: members of Save Oxleas Wood guarding the trees



THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

BEFORE the start of the Times World Chess Championship match between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short, I will have given details of all their previous encounters.

In this game from Tilburg, The Netherlands, in 1991, Short accepted a draw when he appeared to have slightly the better prospects.

Such caution will be abandoned during his championship clash with Kasparov, when Short may be expected to squeeze every drop of advantage out of the situations in which he finds himself.

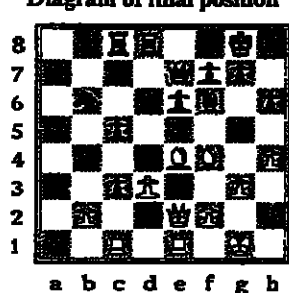
White: Nigel Short
Black: Garry Kasparov
Tilburg 1991

Sicilian Defence	
1 e4	c5
2 Nc3	e6
3 Nf3	a6
4 g3	b5
5 Bg2	Bb7
6 c3	d6
7 d4	Nd7
8 a3	Rc8
9 Bc2	Hg6
10 h4	Be7
11 e5	Nc6
12 exd6	Bxd6
13 Nd5	Bd5
14 Bxc5	Bf6

15 Oe1	Oe6
16 Rb1	Oe6
17 Bg2	Rf8
18 Oe2	Rf8
19 Rf1	Nb5
20 B4	Oe7
21 b4	a5
22 c3	b6
23 Rbc1	b4
24 a4	a4
25 Be4	bxc3

Middlesex 10-6; in the under-15s section, Middlesex beat Cambridge 12½-7½; the under-12s section featured Hertfordshire beating Lancashire 10-6; and in the minor, Oxfordshire ran out the winners against Hertfordshire also by 10-6. Thanks to Stewart Reuben for supplying results.

Diagram of final position



Counties results

The English Counties Championship Finals took place in Birmingham. The Open, between Kent and Essex, resulted in a suspenseful finish and was won by Kent on a board count after the match had been tied 8-8.

In the under-17s section, Greater Manchester beat

Championship update

Tickets for the Times championship between Kasparov and Short include a guaranteed seat, free glass of champagne, souvenir programme, chess book and use of a personal Predict-a-move advanced computer game system fitted into every seat in the Savoy Theatre, central London.

Play is from 3.30pm to 9.30pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from September 7 to October 30. Adjourned games, if any, to which ticket holders will be admitted free of charge, will continue the following day at the theatre, at the same starting time.

Times readers looking a seat during July will be entitled to a free lunch at Simpson's-in-the-Strand, central London, the traditional home of chess. Ring First Call on 071 497 9977 for credit card bookings or Simpson's for the lunch promotion on 071 536 9112.

Winning move, page 40

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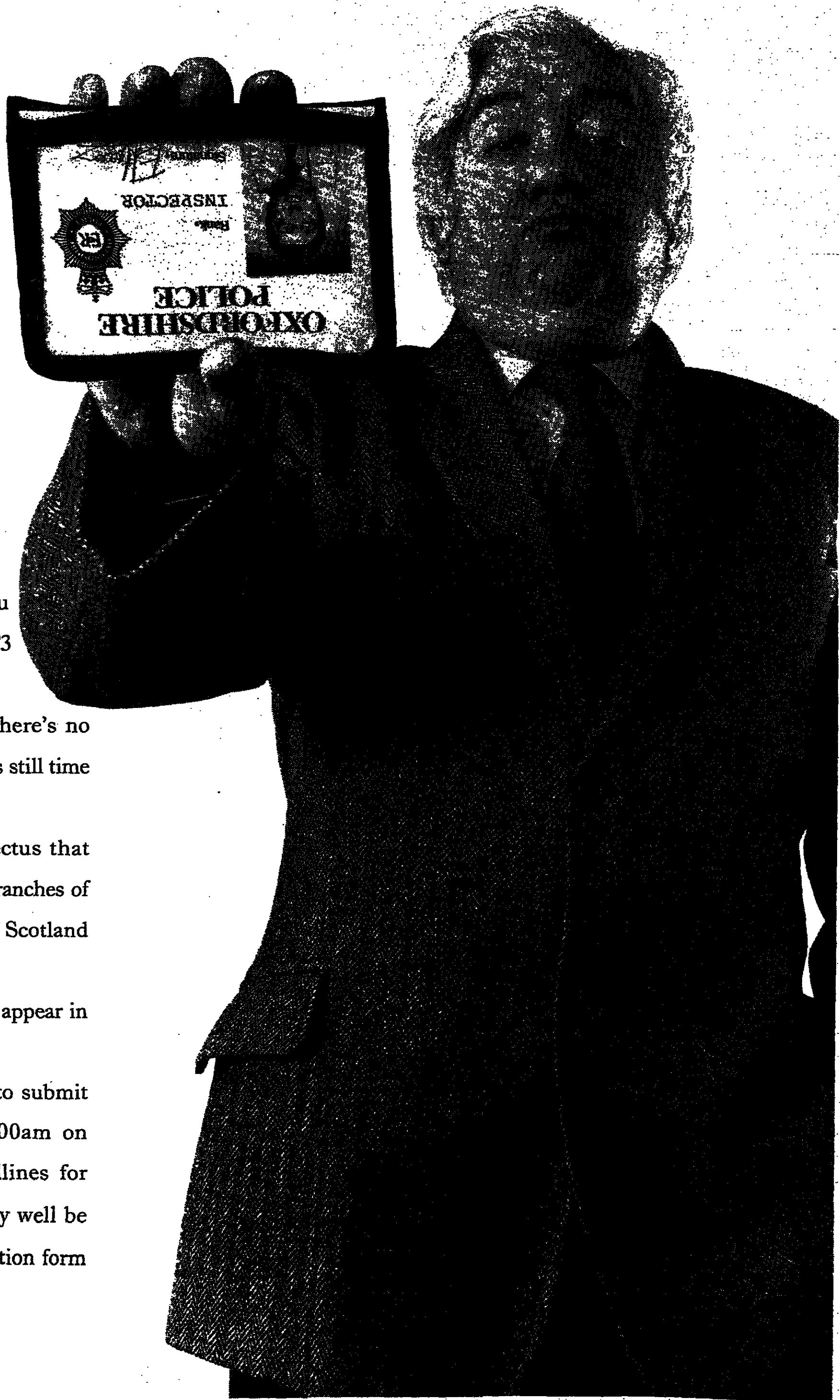
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Application forms will also appear in the national press.

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مركز ربح

Lilley prep.
ground for
as pending

Pension
forecast

Long-term

Kiln

Social security overview

Lilley prepares the ground for cuts as spending soars

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

PETER Lilley, the social security secretary, has paved the way for swinging cuts in the social security budget by setting out in detail "the remorseless growth" in the benefit bill, which is projected to rise by £14 billion by the end of the century.

His analysis of how spending has grown and the main pressure points of the future shows how certain groups such as pensioners, lone parents and the disabled have become an increasing burden on the state. The statistics make clear that something will have to be done to avoid excessive public borrowing.

In a foreword to the report on spending projections, Mr

Lilley argues that social security spending has increased by seven times in real terms since 1949. Since 1979, it had risen by two thirds in real terms. Even excluding benefit payments to unemployed people, the underlying growth in the programme had been about 3 per cent a year since 1979. Mr Lilley predicts an even higher underlying growth till the end of the century, of 3.3 per cent a year if there is no change in policy.

After 2000, spending is expected to rise even faster to take account of the growing number of pensioners. "The message that underlying growth in social security has exceeded and will continue to

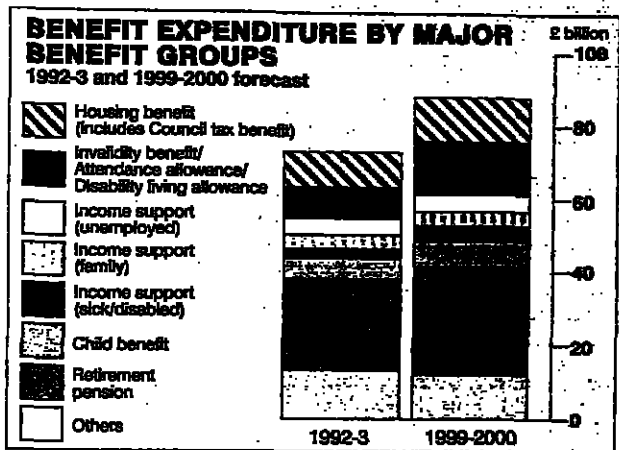
exceed growth in the economy is an uncomfortable one. But it must be faced," Mr Lilley says.

"It is not possible for the system to continue indefinitely to grow more rapidly than the economy as a whole. If this happened, other public expenditure programmes would be bound to suffer."

The relentless rise in the social security budget makes grim reading for the Treasury. In 1949-50, benefit spending was £597 million. By 1992-3, that had risen to £74.1 billion. Over the 42-year period, the average annual real growth in social security spending had been 4.8 per cent, exceeding the real growth in gross domestic product. As a result, spending as a proportion of GDP had risen from 4.7 per cent in 1949 to 12.3 per cent in 1992-3.

The report shows that most of the increase since 1979 is due to spending on pensioners, the sick and disabled, and families. Most of the expected growth will be on invalidity and related benefits, housing benefit and lone parents on income support as well as the maturing of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme.

Lilley warning, page 1
Bernard Levin, page 16
Leading article, page 17



Disabled: payments may be taxed

INVALIDITY benefit, which costs the state more than £6 billion, is expected to be the main victim in this year's public expenditure round (Jill Sherman writes).

The report shows that spending on invalidity benefit, provided for the long-term unemployed who are too ill to work, has doubled in real terms since 1982-3, and is projected to increase 50 per cent between 1992 and 2000.

The number of invalidity benefit recipients is expected

from 600,000 in 1978-9 to almost 1.5 million in 1992-3, at a time when the nation's health has improved, as Mr Lilley and Mr Major keep reminding MPs.

The report argues there was no real correlation in the 1980s between unemployment and the numbers on invalidity benefit. Projected spending, therefore, was expected to be based largely on trends continuing. "It does not explain why more people are claiming invalidity benefit," Mr Lilley says.

He says that unemployed people who are healthy enough to work are claiming invalidity benefit, which is more generous than the dole.

Mr Lilley has proposed taxing invalidity benefit and tightening up medical requirements. Papers that were leaked from the social security department also showed that he was keen to clamp down on age-related additions and close other loopholes, which would take 60,000 people off the benefit.

Pensioners: bill forecast to leap Housing: burden keeps growing

ASSUMING that unemployment falls to 2.25 million by 2000, the elderly are expected to account for 43 per cent of the social security bill by then (Jill Sherman writes). Spending on retirement pensions, which go to nearly ten million people, is expected to jump from £26.9 billion to about £30 billion, whatever the growth figures or state of employment.

The rise in spending is the result of demographic changes, although the increase in pensioners will continue to level off towards the end of the century before rising dramatically after 2000. The two benefits most dependent on demographic factors — child benefit and retirement pension — have shown just over 1 per cent real growth since 1979.

Mr Lilley is pressing for legislation to equalise the pension age at 65, which will save about £3 billion. He is also keen to encourage more people to opt out of state pensions.

He said: "It is important not to overlook the significant role played by the private sector. Around £500 billion is invested in private pension schemes alone — this is a measure of the enormous scale of private sector provision."

Housing benefit paid to 4.3 million poor people is projected to jump from £7.3 billion this year to £11.1 billion by the end of the century (Nicholas Wood writes).

Government policy of deregulating the private rented sector and pushing up council rents is the main reason for the increase. Housing benefit covers rent rebate paid to local authority tenants, and rent allowance paid to people in housing association properties or those owned by private landlords. It provides up to 100 per cent rebate of housing costs for people at or below income support levels, and limited assistance for people above.

On the most realistic assumptions for economic growth and unemployment levels over the next seven years, the costs of rent rebate are projected to grow by 5.5 per cent a year in real terms. Rent allowance is on course for annual increases averaging 7.1 per cent.

Since 1979, rent allowance has been the fastest rising item in the social security budget, increasing at the rate of 15 per cent in real terms every year as rents have gone up. Rent rebate has increased at 7.6 per cent per annum.

Lone parents: a million claimants

THE recent flurry of ministerial pronouncements about lone parents can partly be explained by the statistics which show a projected steady rise in claimants till the end of the century (Jill Sherman writes).

The number of lone parents has risen from 870,000 in 1979 to 1.3 million in 1991, while those receiving state benefit has increased from 320,000 to about a million. The second figure is predicted to rise by nearly 50 per cent by 2000. The main factors behind the increases include changes in

social attitudes, accelerating rates of divorce, separation and births outside marriage, and "in the characteristics of lone parents", according to the report.

It shows that spending on income support is expected to rise from £14.5 billion to between £16.3 billion and £18.4 billion depending on the level of unemployment. About £3.6 billion goes to low income pensioners, but spending is not expected to go up for this group during the next seven years.

The report suggests that

families will make up the bulk of the increase. At present, state spending on lone parents is about £6 billion.

The underlying growth in lone parents claiming income support is estimated at 100,000 a year. "The underlying rate of increase is expected to slow towards the end of the century because demographic forecasts show a sharp fall in the size of the age groups most at risk of becoming lone parents." However, the report forecasts that about 1.4 million lone parents will be claiming benefit in 1999-2000.

Knife-wielding minister must remember voters

PETER Lilley is proving a shrewd tactician. He says he wants "an informed public debate on the reform of social security". That does not, however, mean an open debate. What he wants is a debate which concludes that there have to be cutbacks and changes.

His aim is being achieved in two ways. First, there have been leaks, rumours and knife-flying about possible savings in invalidity benefit, payments to single parents and the like. In each case, alleged abuses have been highlighted: irresponsible single mums and people falsely going sick. Second, Mr Lilley has focused on the high, and rising, cost of the social

security budget. The evidence of the figures is clear. Social security spending as a proportion of national income has risen nearly threefold since the late 1940s.

The ratio is likely to rise further by the end of the century, if there is no change in unemployment over the next seven years, spending is still projected to rise by 3.3 per cent a year in real terms. This implies a higher share of national income since growth is assumed to be just 2 per cent a year. Only on the highly optimistic assumption of 3 per cent growth and unemployment falling by a half by 2000, would the ratio decline.

This growth is occurring,

even though the number of pensioners will rise very little in the rest of this century.

However, a "significant" increase in the number of pensioners, putting substantial upward pressure on spending, will occur in the early decades of the next century.

This is not a detached document. Like John Redwood's speech a week ago, it implies that the model should be the two-parent family making provision for retirement through a personal or occupational pension scheme. The paper refers

dismissively to "age groups most at risk of becoming lone parents".

The paper leads to the inescapable conclusion that "something must be done, or rather cut, since things cannot continue as they are". Fine, and Mr Lilley is right that changing public attitudes is a necessary first step.

The trouble with such expenditure-driven exercises is that they beg the question of what responsibilities the state should take. Mr Lilley has talked about protecting those in need, better targeting and of keeping spending within the nation's ability to pay: all of which means nothing in practice.

The current, and projected,

rates of growth in spending may be unaffordable, and there may be abuses which can be remedied. But there will still be a growing number of pensioners who will have to be financed one way or another. Increasing private provision will obviously reduce the burden on the taxpayer. But some rise in the share of social security in the overall economy may be the necessary corollary of an ageing population. All that Mr Lilley may be able to achieve is to slow the rate of growth. As the Christchurch by-election is likely to remind ministers, social security recipients also have votes.

PETER RIDDELL



Market mechanism: a Stockport pensioner considers her purchases at a stall. Okara in Pakistan is ready to send the town free fruit and vegetables

Stockport weighs up Punjabi offer of free food

By RONALD FAUX

A PROPOSED airlift of free fruit and vegetables from the Punjab for distribution among the elderly poor of Stockport. Greater Manchester, was under consideration by the local council last night.

The offer came from the Pakistani

region of Okara, which has one million acres of land, largely under cultivation. Okara wrote to Stockport council offering a monthly distribution of fruit and vegetables to the "senior citizens, pensioners and other hard-up people of Stockport". The people of Okara hope Stockport will reciprocate with technological aid.

Some have dismissed the gesture as neither practical nor appropriate. Arthur Wilson, chief executive of Stockport council, said: "Stockport does have a number of needs but not particularly for food." Philip Harrison, mayor of Stockport, said: "The offer is obviously very kind. However, personally I do think there are

parts of the world more in need of food aid." However, Ian Nowles, director of Age Concern in Stockport, said many pensioners found life difficult as the cost of housing and heating rose. "The only possible economy they can make is on food, so this gesture would be very welcome."

Crossbow attacker jailed

An unemployed builder was jailed yesterday for shooting a teenager in the head with a crossbow after a bonfire night fight. The bolt penetrated 2in into the brain of Jamie Jenkins, 18, but he made a full recovery. Exeter Crown Court was told.

Francis Hamill, 23, of Exeter, was sentenced to three years for causing grievous bodily harm and two years for a burglary after admitting both offences. He said that he intended to use the crossbow only as a threat after a friend was attacked, but it went off during a struggle.

Mr Justice Mantell told him: "It is only by the grace of God someone was not killed." At an earlier trial, Hamill was acquitted of attempting to murder Mr Jenkins and of causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

Book libel

Lord and Lady Lisle, of Taplow, Buckinghamshire, were awarded undisclosed agreed libel damages against Pan Books, Chapman Books and Michael Korda, whose novel *Curious* described the sexual behaviour of characters bearing the same name.

Lawyer loses

A solicitor who stole £1 million from clients lost his appeal against a seven-year sentence. Mr Justice Buckley said in the Court of Appeal that the case of Derek Chisnall, 48, of Corringham, Essex, was one of startling dishonesty.

Guard stole

A Group 4 security guard, Anthony Hughes, 41, of Braintree, Essex, was jailed for two years at Chelmsford for stealing more than £90,000 from telephone kiosks throughout East Anglia.

Civic ear

The mayor of North Warwickshire, Peter Morson, 42, a lecturer, is to have an earring made with the council crest and motto, "Govern yet obey", as part of his civic regalia.

Protesters challenge Major on forest sales

By JOHN YOUNG

A 30-ACRE wood in Buckinghamshire yesterday became the focus of a national campaign to oppose privatisation of the Forestry Commission and to demand that the public be guaranteed full access to all commission land sold to private owners.

Alan Mattingly, director of the Ramblers' Association, has written to the prime minister, asking him to intervene in the debate over the future of the commission. His letter is supported by more than 30 national organisations in England, Wales and Scotland; they represent local authorities, landowners, farmers, sporting, recreational, archaeological and environmental interests, and professional staff and trade unions in the forestry industry.

The united front shown by so many disparate organisations, many of which are frequently in conflict with each other, is a demonstration of the strength of opposition to privatisation.

In his letter, Mr Mattingly describes the commission as an exemplary landowner, with more than 40 per cent of the nation's woods and forests. It encouraged the public to roam on its land.

In contrast, he says, very few private woodland owners pursue similar practices. Recent sales of commission land had led to the loss of public access, of which the 30-acre Farm Wood near Beaconsfield was a good example. Since it was sold by the commission, the public had been banned from the wood itself and had been restricted to a couple of public footpaths skirting its edge.

Mr Mattingly writes to Mr Major: "I urge you to give a public assurance that nothing will be done to jeopardise the existing freedom to roam over Forestry Commission land."

Alan Howard, the Ramblers' Association chairman, said yesterday that the story of Farm Wood could be repeated at all 5,000 Forestry Commission sites throughout Britain.

THE COMET SALE.

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED.

Campaign 'mugging' puts Tory on the defensive

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

■ Campaigning got off to a bad start for the Tory candidate in Christchurch



Lampkin: giving the Tories a lambasting in Christchurch

ROB Hayward, the Tory candidate in the Christchurch by-election, was given a stark reminder of the strength of anti-government feeling in the Dorset town yesterday during a shopping centre walkabout.

An undemanding photo opportunity rapidly became a candidate's worst nightmare when Mr Hayward was accosted by an angry and articulate elderly voter. To cheers from the rapidly growing crowd of shoppers Glenys Lampkin, 70, condemned the government for imposing VAT on domestic fuel. "How the hell can I pay it on £56 a week?" she demanded. She also accused the government of planning cuts in disability benefits and charging for hospital beds.

Mrs Lampkin, who has always voted Conservative, appeared to encapsulate the fears of many voters in the constituency when she told Mr Hayward that "John Major is not fit to rule this country". The prime minister was "nothing but a glorified boy, he's like a toy boy", she said.

Playing to an appreciative and sympathetic audience she said: "You can see what the people of Christchurch think." The final rejoinder to Mr Hayward as his party minders ushered him away was: "Go back and bury yourself in Bristol where you belong."

Mrs Lampkin, from an estate "where the old people live" on the outskirts of Christchurch, said she would never vote Conservative again, adding: "I hope to God the Liberals get in."

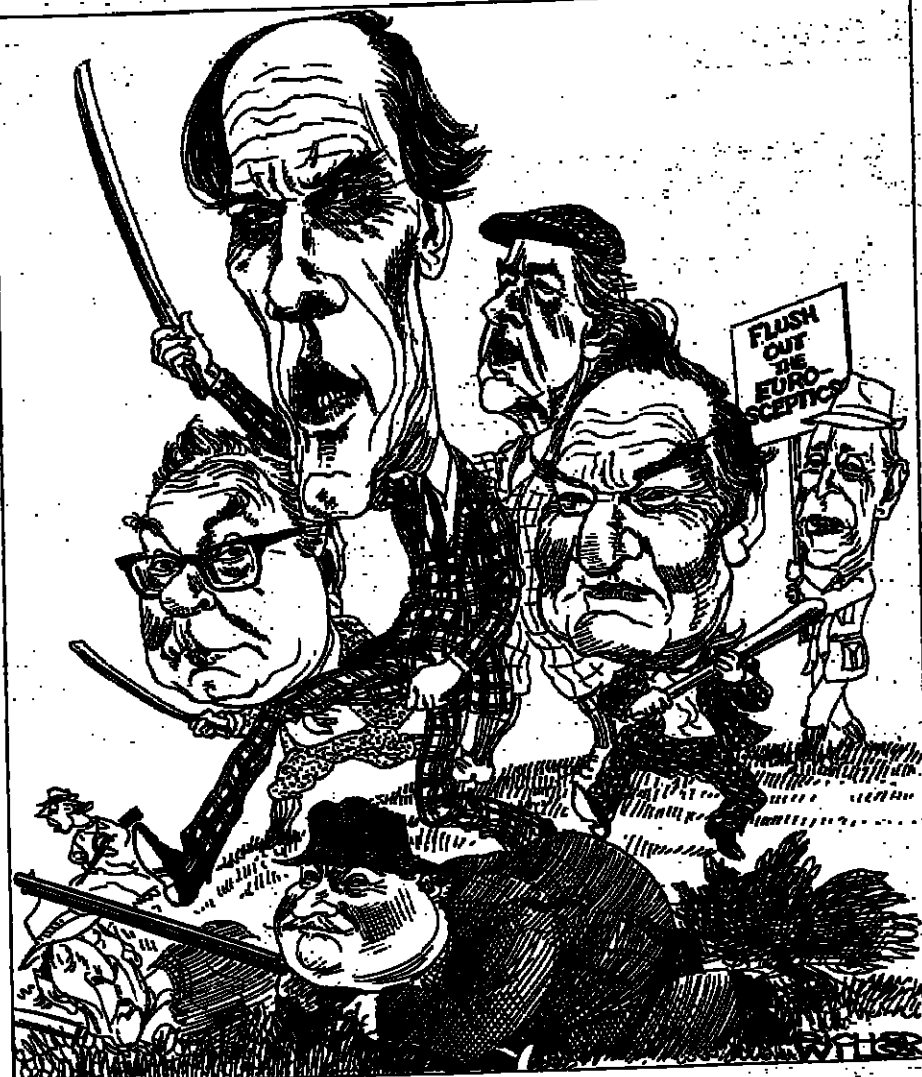
The confrontation threatened to turn the walkabout into farce. The incident marred a full day of walkabouts and air-phones on the eve of the launch of the Tory campaign. Sir Norman Fowler, the party chairman, joins Mr Hayward in the constituency this morning as the three-week countdown to polling day on July 29 begins. Mr Hayward is defending the 23,000 majority bequeathed to

him by Robert Adley, who died in May.

Diana Maddock, the Liberal Democrat candidate, launched her campaign with the key issue of VAT on domestic fuel top of the party's agenda. Mrs Maddock said many people in the constituency felt angry and frustrated that they had not been able to express their concerns about government policies.

Nigel Lickley, the Labour candidate, launches his campaign on Monday with Margaret Beckett, the party's deputy leader. Mr Lickley said yesterday that angry Christchurch voters should vote Labour rather than Liberal Democrat because "I don't accept that one extra Liberal will make any difference".

□ 1992 general election result: R. J. Adley (C) 36,627; Rev D. Bussey (LD) 13,612; A. Lloyd (Lab) 6,997; J. Barratt (NLP) 243; A. Wareham (CRA) 175. Con majority 23,015.



Flushing out support: Blake, left, Tebbit, Devonshire, Stoddart and Tony Pandy

Peers hunt for treaty support

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOVES of backwoods peers, rarely seen in the Lords, hold the key to whether Britain belatedly holds a referendum on the Maastricht treaty on European union.

EC-sceptics and the government's business managers in the upper House are contacting as many distant peers as possible to urge their support in next Wednesday's vote on the referendum. Soundings among about 250 regular attenders point to a substantial vote against a national poll. The government and Labour front benches, and most Liberal Democrat peers, also oppose a referendum.

But more than 1,000 peers are entitled to vote next week, even though about half have probably never turned up in recent years.

The sceptics, led by Lord Tebbit, will also field Baroness Thatcher, the former prime minister, as their key speaker. Although she has kept silent during the committee stage of the bill in recent weeks, she plans to make an emotional appeal to her fellow peers next Wednesday for a referendum.

The cross-party amendment was published yesterday under the names of Lord Blake, the Tory historian; Lord Stoddart of Swindon, a leading Labour EC-sceptic; Viscount Tony Pandy, the former Commons Speaker George Thomas; and the Duke of Devonshire.

Welsh agency chief censured by MPs

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Redwood, the Welsh secretary, came under pressure last night to sack the former head of the Welsh Development Agency from other public posts after he was severely censured by MPs.

A public accounts committee report condemned Dr Gwyn Jones's chairmanship of the agency. The MPs, helped by the National Audit Office, uncovered the misuse of millions of pounds of public money over the past four years. Dr Jones left the agency last week but remains chairman of the Broadcasting Council for Wales, the Welsh national governor on the BBC's board of governors and a government appointee on the University College of Wales' board of governors.

Dubious activities at the agency criticised by the MPs include: □ The appointment of Neil Smith as the £40,000-a-year marketing director despite three previous convictions for deception. □ Mr Smith's interviews with models in a hotel room for "promotional work". □ The international director's

retirement settlement totalling £28,000.

□ Redundancy payments totalling £2.3 million.

□ Dr Jones's return flight to New York by Concorde.

□ Private use of staff cars free of charge.

□ The sale for \$15,000 of agency-owned equipment by a former employee in Baltimore.

□ Undisclosed payments to consultants of £308,000 to consider privatising the agency's work.

The cross-party committee concluded: "We regard it as unacceptable that the Welsh Office took no action against anyone in the top echelons of the agency who presided over a catalogue of serious and inexcusable breaches of control and accountability."

Ron Davies, the shadow Welsh secretary, demanded the removal of Dr Jones, the agency's chairman since 1990, from his other public posts. Mr Redwood promised to look carefully at all the findings.

□ House of Commons committee of public accounts 49th report: Welsh Development Agency accounts 1991/92 (Stationery Office £17).

The week in Parliament

The main business in Parliament is expected to be:

House of Commons

Today (9.30): Debate on tourism and deregulation.

Monday and Tuesday: finance bill, remaining stages.

Wednesday: Debates on opposition motions on Scottish local government and on G7 summit.

Thursday: Welsh language bill, remaining stages.

Friday: Debate on social security fraud.

House of Lords

Today: Northern Ireland orders debate on regulation of Lloyd's.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: European communities (amendment) bill, report.

Thursday: Railways' bill, committee continued.

Friday: National Lottery bill, report.

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مركز من رايك

Egypt fears wave of terror as militants are hanged

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN CAIRO

EGYPT was last night braced for an Islamic backlash after the hanging of seven fundamentalists convicted in a military court of attacking tourists and plotting to overthrow President Mubarak.

Lawyers who had failed to win an appeal for the men issued a warning that the hangings could provoke a reaction on the streets. Extra protection was ordered for American institutions in Cairo after moves to extradite Shaikh Omar Abdel Rahman, the militant Egyptian Islamic leader, from America. Fundamentalists here predict that his arrival would whip up popular feeling in the same way that the return of Ayatollah Khomeini did in Iran.

Even non-religious Egyptians and those not normally involved with politics were taken aback at the speed with which the authorities carried out the death sentences. The executions began at 7am and took three hours to complete.

Five Muslim militants were hanged after being convicted of attempting to kill President

■ Even non-religious Egyptians are shocked by the latest executions. The enforced return of a fundamentalist shaikh is expected to trigger violence

Nasser in 1954 and another five were executed in 1982 for the assassination of President Sadat. There was then a gap of more than 11 years until earlier this summer, when the hanging of convicted fundamentalists resumed. Yesterday's hangings, carried out at



Mubarak pledged to stamp out extremists

a jail despite calls that they should be in public, demonstrated again that the government plans to stand firm against the extremists, whose terror campaign has caused 200 deaths in the past 14 months.

Egypt's military courts have been criticised by lawyers here and by international human rights organisations. Defence lawyers at the trial of the seven, at which there were repeated claims about confessions extracted under torture and cries from the caged dock of 'Allahu Akbar' ('God is greatest'), said the court gave them less than a week to examine 4,000 pages of prosecution evidence.

Like many of the militants campaigning to topple the government, those hanged belonged to El-Gamaa El-Islamiya (the Islamic Group), an armed organisation run in cells, whose spiritual leader is

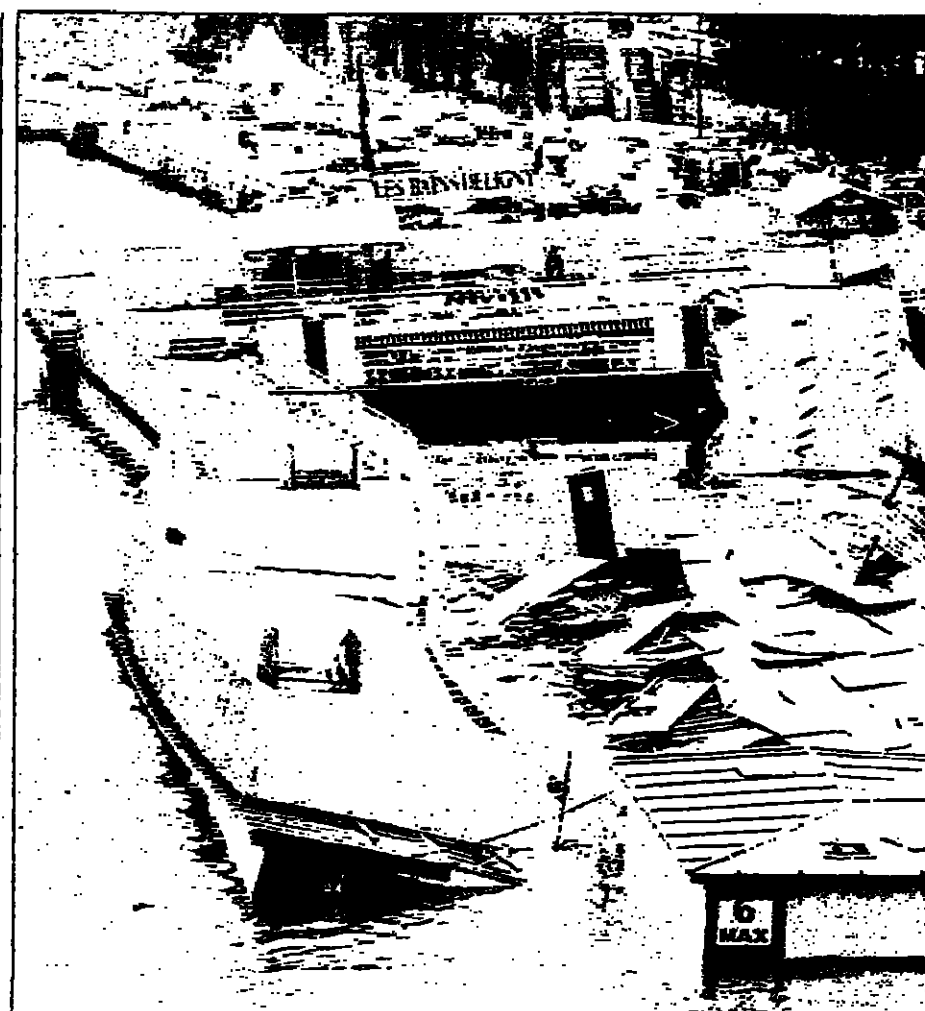
the blind shaikh and whose goal is to transform Egypt into an Iranian-style theocracy. The shaikh was detained in New York last Friday on immigration charges.

The seven were condemned to death by a military court on April 22 after being found guilty of attempted murder in six attacks on tourist buses and one on a Nile cruiser. The incidents did not include the bus ambush last October in which a British nurse, Sharon Hill, was killed.

Since the anti-tourist campaign was launched last year as part of an Islamic strategy to weaken the already shaky Egyptian economy, bookings have slumped by more than 50 per cent.

Over the past six months, 22 fundamentalists have been condemned to death. About 50 more death sentences are expected on other militants facing trial.

President Mubarak, who is expected to win a third term uncontested in an election in October, ordered that the trials of Islamic extremists should be switched from civil to military courts to speed up proceedings.



Last dip: the offices of Paris's Piscine Deligny were still afloat after the world's first floating swimming pool, built in 1788, sank into the Seine yesterday. The pool, moored to barges near the Pont de la Concorde, broke away and sank

Arab trap leaves two dead

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

TWO soldiers were killed and three injured in an ambush in southern Lebanon yesterday after suspected Palestinian guerrillas launched one of the bloodiest attacks on Israeli forces this year. The violence coincided with the arrival in Jerusalem of a senior American envoy trying to revive the stalled peace talks.

Gunmen detonated a bomb and opened fire with machineguns and rockets as an Israeli armoured unit patrolled the northern edge of its self-declared security zone. Sources in southern Lebanon said one gunman was also killed in the clash and that Israeli artillery batteries opened fire on nearby villages in retaliation. The Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General-Command, headed by Ahmed Jibril, said it carried out the attack. It is unlikely to help Dennis Ross, the US state department's co-ordinator on the Middle East, who arrived yesterday for talks with Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, to salvage the moribund 20-month peace process.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amnesty is 'out of touch'

Johannesburg: The South African law and order ministry criticised Amnesty International yesterday, saying that political assassinations occur with covert approval from the security forces (Our Foreign Staff writes).

The ministry said Amnesty was out of touch and biased in its perception of the causes of violence, and played down the murder of policemen. The death toll in recent violence rose to 155.

Leading article, page 17

PoW claim

Hanoi: Robert Garwood, a convicted American collaborator, returning to Vietnam for the first time since 1973, said he had seen "30 to 40" US prisoners of war after Hanoi announced all had left. (AFP)

Rule agreed

Lagos: Politicians have agreed to an interim government to end the rioting that has paralysed the city. Press reports said 75 people had been killed and many injured. (Reuters)

Animal rites

Brussels: For £2,300 an animal cemetery in Liege is offering a full funeral service for horses, with 900lb custom-made luxury coffins and pre-burial grooming. (Reuters)

King better

Amman: King Husain of Jordan was discharged from a military hospital after treatment for an irregular heart-beat, his doctor said. (Reuters)

Hurd seeks easing of Hong Kong impasse

FROM JONATHAN MURSKY
EAST ASIA EDITOR
IN HONG KONG

DOUGLAS Hurd arrived in Peking last night hoping to ease, if not break, the impasse over the future of Hong Kong.

The foreign secretary will spend this morning discussing — but not, he emphasises, negotiating — Hong Kong-related questions with Qian Qichen, his Chinese counterpart. He will fly to Hong Kong this afternoon to brief Chris Patten, the governor, and his executive council on his talks before returning to London.

When Mr Hurd meets Mr Qian he will be accompanied by Sir Robin McLaren, Britain's ambassador to Peking, and leader of the British negotiating team, and Christopher Hom, the Foreign Office assistant secretary responsible for East Asia. Significantly, Michael Sze, Hong Kong's secretary for constitutional affairs, will also be present. Mr Sze is an important symbolic figure, representing at a senior level the aspirations and fears of Hong Kong's people, who fear China and distrust Britain.

Before leaving Tokyo, where he has been attending the G7 summit, Mr Hurd emphasised the need for speed on what are sometimes called "technical matters", which the Chinese have held up by linking them to the disputed Patten plan. Mr Hurd hopes that such problems can be overcome if the larger problems on Hong Kong's constitution can be resolved at his meeting with Mr Qian.

Leaders of Italian culture arrested

FROM PAUL HOLMES IN ROME

Three of the biggest names in the world of Italian culture were behind bars yesterday after a flurry of arrests shone the spotlight of scandal on the country's artistic elite.

Though the cases were unconnected, they appeared certain to shake further the faith of Italians in their institutions, few of which have escaped untouched from an unrelenting judicial assault on corruption. The most prominent among the three was Francesco Sisti, who as director-general of the cultural heritage ministry, has overall charge of safeguarding Italy's wealth of artistic treasures, historic monuments and archaeological riches.

Police said Signor Sisti, the ministry's top civil servant, was arrested in Rome at dawn on charges of fraud connected with a \$20-million (£13.2-million) restoration project in southern Italy. The others held were Adriano Aragozzini, the impresario behind the annual San Remo song festival, and Ferdinando Pinto, one of Italy's most respected theatre directors.

In one of the more bizarre cases to hit the headlines, Pinto was taken into preventive custody after a

Mafia turncoat alleged that he brought in the criminal organisation to burn down his own theatre so that they could both cream off funds from a restoration appeal.

Pinto, who watched as flames consumed the baroque interior of the Teatro Petruzzelli in the southern port of Bari in 1991, now heads the Teatro di Roma. He called the allegations absurd. "I will not allow anyone to drag my name through the mud," he said before his arrest.

Judicial sources said Aragozzini was arrested on suspicion of paying bribes to local politicians in 1990 in San Remo, the Italian Riviera resort where the country's favourite festival of popular music is held each February. The singer was sole organiser of the festival until 1991 and has since been involved as executive co-producer for state television's coverage of the event.

Hundreds of leading Italians from former prime ministers to top businessmen have been investigated or arrested during the past 17 months in a widespread corruption scandal in which companies routinely paid big bribes to win lucrative public contracts. (Reuters)

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West edges closer to lifting weapons blockade in Bosnia



Hurd: moving towards counsel of despair

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

WITH the deadlock in political negotiations and the increasing difficulty in delivering humanitarian aid to Bosnia, Britain believes that the reasons for maintaining an arms embargo are collapsing rapidly.

Douglas Hurd's outspoken remarks in Tokyo reflect not only widespread exasperation with the continuing bloodshed in Bosnia but also an admission that the West's twin-track policy — encouraging political negotiations while delivering as much humanitarian aid as possible — has reached a dead end. None of the parties, especially not the Muslims, is willing to make the necessary compromises to keep the political talks going. And aid is not getting through because the warring parties either refuse to allow transit, or because they are demanding exorbitant payments.

For more than a year Mr Hurd has insisted that arming the Muslims would be seen by the Serbs as a one-sided intervention by the United Nations. This would jeopardise the humanitarian convoys, which depend on the Serbs not attacking the lorries and the planes flying into Sarajevo.

It would also remove any incentive for the Serbs to take part in the Vance-Owen peace negotiations, which they would regard as biased

■ Britain believes that the reasons for maintaining an embargo are collapsing. Peace talks appear to be going nowhere

THE BALKANS

against Serbia. These points were made forcefully to Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, when he toured Europe two months ago to win support for the Clinton administration's proposal to strike at Bosnian Serb positions while arming the Muslims.

Mr Hurd pointed out that 22 million people in Bosnia depended on the humanitarian supplies, and they should

not be left to their fate. Britain had 2,000 troops in Bosnia to help deliver these supplies who would be an immediate target for Serb guns.

Since then the situation has changed. The Vance-Owen peace plan is no longer on the table, and there is no need to cajole the Serbs into making concessions to implement it.

Instead, the only plan now is the de facto carve-up of Bosnia, which has been a Serb aim from the beginning. It is the Muslims who are boycotting the present talks, which

appear to be running into the sand.

Britain fears that Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, may decide that the humanitarian operation has become too difficult and dangerous and order its suspension. In that case the ostensible reason for the presence of British troops would disappear.

"We still do not support a lifting of the arms embargo," a Whitehall official said yesterday. "But Mr Hurd is a realist. He recognises this is a counsel of despair. But if there is no longer any role for us, then there is no reason to maintain it. We will neither support such an embargo nor veto it."

Britain hopes that the G7's warning about economic as-

sistance will be seen by President Tudjman as a clear warning that if Croatia collaborates with Serbia in dismembering Bosnia, its preferential trading arrangements with the European Community will be jeopardised. But a Whitehall official said Mr Hurd's remarks were not intended as any coded message to Zagreb or Belgrade. "They do not even listen to our direct messages."

□ Zagreb: The G7 summit declaration on Bosnia was greeted yesterday with fury and deep satisfaction in Zagreb and Belgrade respectively (Tim Judah writes). A Croatian government spokeswoman said that no official response would be given until today. However one senior official said: "We think it's

really not fair to threaten Croatia with sanctions. They are trying to put the victim and the aggressor on an equal footing because they do not know what else to do."

By contrast the declaration was regarded in Belgrade as a climbdown from last year, when military intervention was threatened. The Tanjug news agency said that "for the first time the Croats are put in the same category as the Serbs", and noted triumphantly that instead of threatening force the Serbs and Croats "were only threatened with the deprivation of aid when the war is finished".

Hurd warning, page 1
Diary, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Summit leaders say Serbs and Croats face total isolation

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER IN TOKYO

THE United States and Germany yesterday spoke in support of Douglas Hurd's warning that the West's patience with the Bosnian deadlock is not unlimited.

The foreign secretary's remarks, which raise the possibility of Britain's 2,500 troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina being withdrawn, were made after the summit yesterday agreed a declaration seeking to increase diplomatic and economic pressure on the Serbs and Croats, and leaving open the option of unspecified further action. It fell short of the threat at last year's G7 summit to consider the use of military force, but its language was toughened at the insistence of the United States, Britain and Germany.

The statement said that if the Serbs and Croats insisted on dismembering Bosnia through changes of border by force or "ethnic cleansing", "they would place themselves beyond the pale of the international community and cannot expect any economic or commercial assistance, especially reconstruction aid."

Mr Hurd, who along with other foreign ministers was consulted by the heads of government as they sought to harden their warning, said the declaration was intended to tell the Serbs and Croats that they would not get money to

reconstruct towns and villages that had been destroyed.

The declaration also said "stronger measures are not excluded". Mr Hurd said this referred to the arms embargo. "One can imagine a situation in which the UN effort in Bosnia has to come to an end because it is too dangerous to proceed, in which there are no

ARMS EMBARGO

negotiations and in which there is no hope of stopping the war. In that case, the arms embargo might well be reviewed and all concerned would fight it out from then to kingdom come," he said.

In a later interview, Mr Hurd reiterated this viewpoint, saying: "If our forces and other forces were withdrawn, if all negotiations came to an end, then it might be a situation in which the friends of each side said 'here is the kit, fight it out'."

There were not direct calls from President Clinton or Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, for the dropping of the arms embargo, but the issue is understood to have been raised at the working dinner of the heads of government on Wednesday night. Mr Hurd's remarks were the clearest signal so far that the

British government accepts that it might have to change policy on the embargo.

John Major said the summit was agreed that unless there was a settlement involving all three parties in Bosnia, the Serbs and the Croats would be isolated for a long period, diplomatically, politically and economically. "They can no longer think they can grab land and the world will forget about it," he said.

At the insistence of America, the declaration contained a package voicing concern about the behaviour of Iran and calling on its government to participate in international efforts for peace and stability.

The G7 leaders also endorsed, as an "objective", the indefinite extension of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The vague commitment was made to satisfy Japan's worries about preserving its options if North Korea produces nuclear weapons.

The leaders also called for an end to the boycott of firms that do business with Israel, and called on Israel to respect its obligations to the occupied territories. They expressed determination to maintain the pressure on Iraq and on Libya, which is holding suspects wanted by the United States and Britain for the Lockerbie bombing.



Bleak outlook: Bosnian Muslim refugees peering out of a school window in Travnik as about 250 more refugees arrived from the Serb-controlled town of Banja Luka and surrounding villages. The Serbs were criticised by aid groups for the fuel crisis facing the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo. Five non-governmental aid groups yesterday urged the United Nations Security Council to break, if necessary by military force, a blockade threatening the very existence of the

city. "The siege of Sarajevo has intensified to dangerous levels. The city is on the brink of disaster," said the international doctors' group Médecins sans Frontières. The French group Action Internationale contre la Faim, the German doctors' organisation Cap Anamur, the New York-based International Rescue Committee, and the Rhode Island Volunteer Group. Supplies of natural gas, diesel fuel and electricity were "non-existent, and water and food have reached critically low

levels", the groups' statement said. "Remaining resources will be completely exhausted in a matter of days."

For nine days, Bosnian Serbs have refused to allow a UN convoy of 25 tonnes of diesel fuel to travel seven miles from Sarajevo airport to the city centre. Sarajevoans are being rationed to about four pints of water a day. Aid workers said that outbreaks of dysentery, cholera and typhoid were imminent. Food rations have been cut since April to 140g per person per day. (AP)

\$3bn aid package boosts Yeltsin

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

THE G7 leaders yesterday assembled a \$3 billion (£2 billion) package to help Russia with its privatisation programme, boosting President Yeltsin as he flew into Tokyo for the final day of the summit.

The funds, to be used over 18 months, are about \$1 billion higher than expected at the

beginning of the week, but less than the \$4 billion proposed by America in April. The package is to help some of Russia's largest companies adopt privatisation.

The unexpected increase, against strong Japanese opposition, was seen as a coup for President Clinton at his first summit. America will be contributing \$400 million on top of the \$3.4 billion unilateral aid approved by Congress. Britain's contribution will be between \$75 million and \$100 million. The original American plan put to G7 finance ministers in April was condemned by Japan only two weeks ago.

The funds will consist of \$500 million in technical assistance, \$1 billion in export credits to buy capital equipment, and \$1 billion in loans from the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the International Finance Corporation. There will be an extra \$500 million from the World Bank, specially designated for development areas affected by privatisation.

The sum from Britain will be made up of about \$75 million in export credits, \$15 million in technical assistance, and an unspecified sum for the development fund. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, worked on the plan with G7 finance ministers. He said all the assistance would be tied to economic reform.

"We see Russia as one of the world's great nations. We want to see Russia as a substantial power in the world. Mr Yeltsin has to be given political status," Mr Clarke said. Lloyd Bentsen, the American treasury secretary, noted that, with the privatisation already of 60,000 smaller companies, Russia's programme had been faster than in most parts of Eastern Europe.

Two weeks ago, Kabuo Muto, the Japanese foreign minister, called for the American plan to be scaled down, arguing that it would never work unless employers and middle managers understood the mechanism of a market economy.

Rhetoric gives way to despair

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND TOM RHODES IN SPLIT

THE politics of doom and despair over Bosnia-Herzegovina have now replaced the months of rhetoric and broken promises.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, set the tone for the West's disillusionment yesterday when he predicted that the United Nations might have to pull out and let the warring factions fight to the death.

Mr Hurd, like many others involved in the tortuous exercise of trying to find a solution to the conflict, is suffering from compassion fatigue, after 15 months of bloodletting, deceit and betrayal in Bosnia. Political initiative has died. Even Mr Hurd is now backing away from the one policy he has always vigorously opposed, lifting the arms embargo on the Muslims.

Where, however, does this leave the UN aid operation in Bosnia, and the 9,000 troops who have been there since last November? Is there any point in keeping them there, when aid convoys escorted by soldiers in armoured fighting

vehicles get stopped by drunken militia demanding money or by hordes of armed bandits emerging from the trees?

Only 50 per cent of the aid required to feed the 2,280,000 people needing food assistance is now being donated, and about 20 per cent of that is not getting through because of

UN AID

fighting or blocks on vital routes. Bosnia's daily aid requirement is supposed to be 1,200 tonnes, based on 530 grammes (1lb 3oz) per person.

The premature withdrawal of British and other UN troops from Bosnia, however, would be seen as the ultimate betrayal of the war's victims. For the presence of UN infantry battalions and armoured vehicles has undoubtedly created a significant element of stability in many areas of Bosnia.

The British soldiers, first the Cheshires and now the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, have so far escorted

4,000 tonnes of aid to warehouses for distribution by the representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Many British-escorted convoys have been held up but never for longer than about six hours. So the mission continues, despite increasing challenges to UN authority.

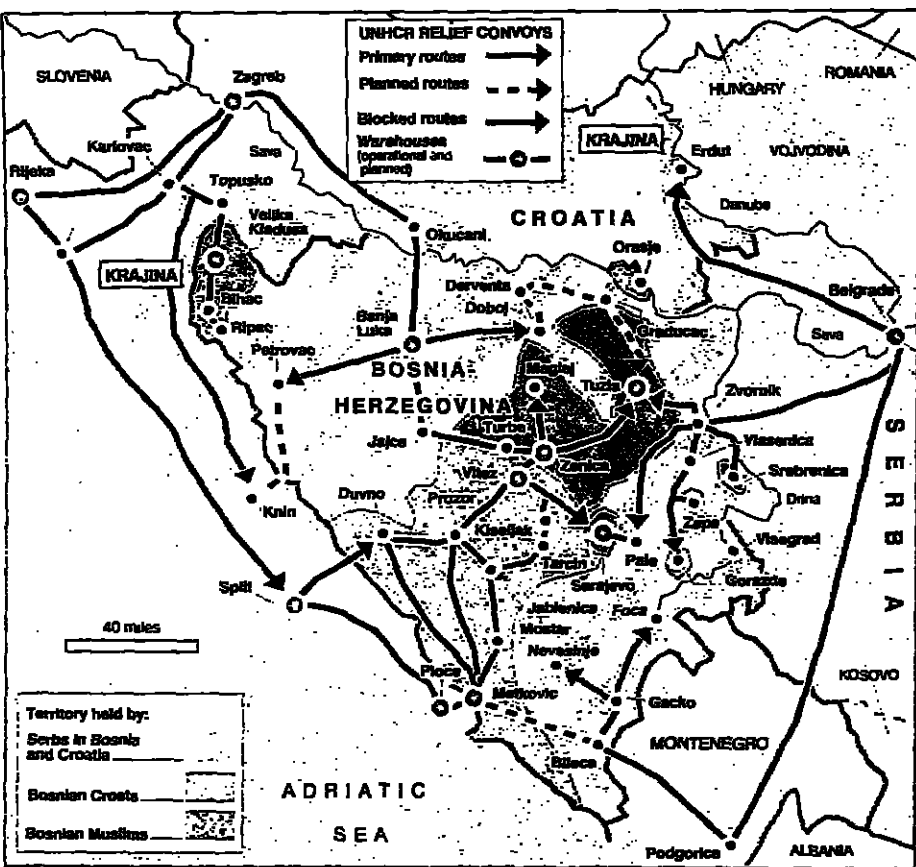
The government's commitment to its soldiers in Bosnia remains a priority, although there is no enthusiasm for sending more troops. Since the political objective is restricted to distributing aid, the feeling is that there is no justification for sending reinforcements, unless to help in a withdrawal.

However, the military fears that evacuation of the British soldiers from the camp in Vitez, in central Bosnia, where so much of the fierce fighting between Muslims and Croats has taken place in the past two months, would lead to a murderous free-for-all. The British camp is on the front line between rival Muslim and Croat factions, but the guns are rarely aimed at the

camp and the soldiers continue to carry out their mission. Lieutenant Colonel Alastair Duncan, the British commander, has a quieter public profile than Lieutenant Colonel Bob Stewart, his predecessor, but he too believes his troops still have an invaluable role to play in Bosnia.

With 10,000 Muslim refugees, many of them men of fighting age, expected soon in their stronghold at Zenica from Maglaj, where Serbs and Croats have joined together against the mainly Muslim Bosnian army, there will be a formidable Muslim force in central Bosnia.

The UNHCR is dreading the coming of winter because, with aid donations down and convoys being stopped, there is likely to be a steep rise in the number of civilian deaths through starvation or disease. Arming the Muslims could set off a revenge war of fearful proportions, multiplying the deaths and prolonging the war. The West would be blamed.



France feasts in memory of woman-mad bon vivant

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

France's Communist party daily, *l'Humanité*, yesterday carried an odd headline: "Maupassant died yesterday". Above it an apparent news picture turned out to be a painting by Delahaye, the late Victorian, depicting German soldiers raping Mademoiselle Fifi, one of Guy de Maupassant's heroines.

The newspaper was merely adding its voice to the celebration of Maupassant, the woman-mad, cynical storyteller who died in a Paris insane asylum a century ago, aged 43. Maupassant was a giant who gave "the people" what they wanted: emotion, said *l'Humanité*, regretting the shortage of such "great men" in our age.

The Normandy-born writer has hardly been "rediscovered", since he has for a long time been the most read of France's 19th-century authors, and film directors from Jean Renoir and Max Ophüls to Jean-Luc Godard have drawn on his tales. But this summer's festivities have bestowed glory on a man who has never been given his due by the academic

world. Intellectuals have disdained him because he was too prolific, espoused no spiritual "system", and was too easy to read. He was just the top-hatted bon vivant of boulevard and bordel, who skewered the hypocrisies and injustices of late 19th-century Paris.

Although he died in a syphilis-ridden dementia, Maupassant's life, it was believed, was too devoted to pleasure. This he pursued in food, boating, hunting and above all women — "those creations of living flesh for which we are all starving", he called them. "He wrote badly," sniffed Jean-Paul Sartre. But Maupassant was appreciated in his life by such giants as Gustave Flaubert, his mentor, and Emile Zola, who gave his funeral oration at Montparnasse cemetery 100 years ago yesterday. "He will always remain one of the happiest and one of the unhappiest men the world has ever known," Zola said.

Thanks to conferences and films, acres of articles and reissues of his books, the bushy handlebar moustache and the

fleshy features of the author of *Bel Ami* (The Lady's Man), *Boite de Sulf* (The Dumplings) and hundreds of shorter tales have recently become almost as familiar as those of Johnny Hallyday. *Le Figaro*, for which he wrote, has been publishing his old columns and short stories under his byline. In upper Normandy, the Maupassant cult is drawing pilgrims to his childhood haunts around Fecamp and the old resort of Etretat, helping boost an ailing local economy.

Restaurants in Paris and Normandy are also offering Maupassant menus, serving terrine de canard, woodcock, and all the rich dishes with which he used to gorge his famous appetite.

With the cultural clock coming full circle, he is being hailed as a far more "modern" writer than those who later presumed to dismiss him. His pessimism, irony and desperate pursuit of pleasure, says Henri Troyat, the historian, make him "more topical than ever".



Maupassant: the 19th-century storyteller whose writing is being hailed as more topical than ever

Russian Far East declares republic

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Far East region yesterday became the second in a week to seek more economic autonomy from Moscow by declaring itself a republic.

The decision by the parliament of the wealthy region, whose capital is Vladivostok, comes shortly after the economically influential Sverdlovsk region renamed itself the Urals republic. Both are laying claim to the enhanced rights to self-government guaranteed to republics under a draft constitution now being discussed. The moves by the two could scupper President Yeltsin's hopes of reaching a constitutional accord with the republics and regions.

Mr Yeltsin, already, has enough problems as he tries to build a stable Russian Federation in which increased inde-

pendence for the regions would be offered in return for their backing of a strong presidency and the reduction of parliament's influence. Aleksandr Yakovlev, a Yeltsin aide, yesterday condemned Sverdlovsk's move as "a dangerous gamble... and a risky precedent in our society".

While the regions are striving to become full republics, the republics themselves are also seizing the chance to extract maximum advantage from constitutional reform. Yakutia, which produces 98 per cent of Russia's diamonds, threatened this week to introduce a state of emergency and freeze bank accounts unless the Russian government increases its funds from the central budget. Oil-rich Tatarstan is also seeking a greater share of its revenues.

Clinton and aides rekindle fire of the campaign trail

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN TOKYO

PRESIDENT Clinton was in exuberant mood towards the end of his first G7 summit, which by consensus has gone exceedingly well for him personally and politically.

The general perception of Mr Clinton's summit success, whether based on reality or on wishful thinking, amounts to a much-needed shot in the arm for a man who has been written off as a has-been by large sections of the American and foreign media not long ago. An indefatigable Mr Clinton professed in Tokyo to being in a "good mood" and to "having a good time". He even managed the rare achievement of stealing some of the limelight from the First Lady, her latest haircut, and her bizarre visit yesterday to a Japanese waste dump.

Politically, the president and his advisers claim two main victories, the trade deal and the conclusion of a larger-than-expected privatisation fund for Russia's state-owned companies. After trade negotiators on Wednesday concluded the market access agreement, the Americans succeeded in selling the deal far more skilfully and earlier than their European counterparts, who were still compos-

In the best traditions of successful public relations exercises, the president's good showing at the Tokyo summit has been a well-crafted mix of style and content

ing their press releases by the time the president grabbed the microphone. The much-hyped market access deal was, of course, not a sole presidential achievement but a genuine multilateral effort, although Mr Clinton has a reasonable case for claiming a political success when his team cajoled

the others to approve a \$3 billion (£2 billion) privatisation fund for Russia, one of the president's key pet projects.

At the G7 summit, Mr Clinton trod cautiously at first. During the first meeting at the Akasaka Palace, he did not get a word in edgewise for 90 minutes, and then made statements no longer than eight minutes, a considerable achievement of brevity for a man whose qualities lie elsewhere. His aides fell over themselves to heap applause on the chief. George Stephanopoulos, a senior adviser, claimed that "the president is serious about leading, there is

no question about that". David Gergen, Mr Clinton's new communications strongman, was busy portraying Mr Clinton in true presidential style. Mr Clinton, he said, was not a man for the small print. "What he does not want to do is come over here and haggle. That's not his style."

The selling of the president worked. The Washington Post noted a "kind of press coverage they have not seen at home since the giddy days right after last year's election". He certainly impressed Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Italian prime minister and fellow G7 novice, who called Mr Clinton "a very agreeable person".

Apart from the political success, Mr Clinton's most memorable performance occurred off-summit. He relished his walkabout in the streets of Tokyo, especially a detour via an ordinary restaurant, usually the ultimate nightmare for his secret service entourage. "I just wanted to get out and see the people where they live," he said after his walkabout.

Also notable was his attitude towards his Japanese hosts, which was marked by courtesy and a noticeable departure from the usual Japanese-bashing for which Americans are so renowned. It was not a departure of substance and policy: Mr Clinton remains adamantly critical of Japan's trade surplus and the country's failure to open up its markets to American goods, but he went out of his way to exorcise the PR disaster of George Bush's visit last year, when some of his encouragement of industrialists proved embarrassingly patronising and the former president himself fell ill at the dinner table.

Hard's warning, page 1
Tokyo declaration, page 2
Summit illusion, page 25



Gergen: projecting the president's new image



Little maids from school: Hillary Clinton, with Cely Dehaene, wife of the Belgian prime minister, meeting young pupils in Tokyo yesterday

Realists chart Tokyo's course for global role

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN, despite its pre-eminence in economic affairs and the recognition that decisions made by Tokyo's financial authorities, bankers and businessmen can transform the world in seconds, finds to its chagrin that it is still often ignored when it comes to international affairs.

Hosting the G7 summit has assumed a particular symbolic importance for Japan. It coincides with Tokyo's realisation that it has no choice but to come out from its self-imposed political hibernation and begin taking its own independent steps into an uncertain post-Cold War world.

Kabun Muto, the foreign minister, selected his moment carefully when he sent an official request to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, for a permanent Japanese seat on the security council, just as the six summiters flew into Tokyo for the start of the meeting. Pull UN representation has become a symbolic goal for Japan, which believes that it has been coerced into a role as international cash dispenser without having a comparable role in policy drafting and implementation.

But realists in Japan, many of them young politicians, are concerned that until the government makes a clear and substantial declaration of its

intentions and displays the will to implement them, it will not achieve its goal. Before it can embark on a real political leadership role, they argue, Japan will have to make two wrenching changes.

The first concerns its foreign policy. It is accepted in Japan that the Yoshida doctrine, which has shaped foreign policy since the 1950s, has become untenable. Named after Shigeru Yoshida, the

prime minister who dominated postwar politics, it states that Japan's primary goals should be economic development to match the West, the avoidance of involvement in international conflict, the acceptance of the political leadership and military protection of America, and the adoption of a "value-free" diplomacy allowing it to trade with a diversity of nations regardless of their political allegiances.

The policy has been implemented with such single-minded industry that Japan's economic might has grown to a stage where it is now viewed as a threat, alienating trading partners and undermining some extent its original purpose. This week's heavy load of G7 economic demands and accusations against Japan

serve as testimony. Other events have also overtaken Japan's foreign policy. The Russian threat, which provided the glue to the US-Japan relationship, has faded and the gradual withdrawal of America's protection and leadership has made it essential for Tokyo to create a more clearly defined agenda and to identify its own centre of political accountability.

This is where realists, such as the politician Tsutomu Hata, believe Japan needs its second key change. Political institutions should be reformed, they believe, to create a two-party political system which would generate open debate on foreign policy issues and produce a new generation of politicians more able to anticipate and adjust to rapidly changing political environments and more fluent in international exchange. Japan is still privately smirking from President Clinton's recent warning to President Yeltsin that Japanese often mean no when they say yes.

Mr Hata took the first steps towards creating a new political structure two weeks ago when he booted from the ruling Liberal Democrats to form a new party which could, if it combines forces with other opposition groups, conceivably topple the government in next week's election.

Princess bridges cultural gap after strained overture

BY JOANNA PITMAN

A leaden performance of 7th-century gagaku court music by an ensemble of imperial reed pipers, which was laid on last night by the imperial palace to stimulate G7 leaders' appetites for dinner, did not rest easily on Russian ears. President Yeltsin sat through the concert with an expression of a man who has just swallowed a bee.

Smoothing his face with haste as Empress Michiko turned to check that he was enjoying himself, he nudged his wife, Naika, who appeared to be far away, sitting as still as a stone lion, perhaps dreaming of her dacha.

The concert appeared to be something of a trial for all concerned. John Major sat mournfully, with a long countenance, perhaps wishing he had escaped early from the remainder of the meetings, like Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who left yesterday afternoon to pursue Hong Kong business in Peking. Only Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako dared to engage in their own conversation as the papers dropped inevitably on. Chastising away, they seemed content to risk the ire of the protocol police of the imperial household.

The Crown Princess was

looking every bit a perfect Japanese princess. As the guests arrived at 3-minute intervals, she stood an appropriate step and a half behind her prince, wearing the costume choice of her lady-in-waiting — a green tulle ballgown with white gloves up to her elbows, and a permanent smile.

The former foreign ministry bureaucrat, who was involved in US-Japanese bilateral trade, with particular reference to semi-conductors, was displayed to best advantage at the banquet, eating roast lamb in cherry sauce seated between President Clinton and President Yeltsin.

In a country where appearances are everything, she will have looked good. Of all the Japanese celebrities seated around the table — the imperial couple, the country's bureaucratic leaders, former prime ministers and an assortment of the intellectual elite of Japan — she was probably the only one who could speak both fluently and knowledgeably to a non-English-speaking Russian president and a non-Japanese-speaking American president.

American press hails the captivating chief

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday received the most enthusiastic reviews since his inauguration for his performance at the summit. American commentators praised him for adroit and energetic diplomacy. A headline in *The Washington Post* said he had

"captivated" Tokyo, while *The Wall Street Journal* observed that Bill Clinton, world leader, was acting much like Bill Clinton, presidential candidate. He was lauded for venturing into shopping streets on a walk that seemed impromptu but was carefully organised.

Robert Novak, a columnist who is seldom a Clinton-booster, said the president had dazzled the other G7 leaders and turned the hubristic event into a personal triumph. His speech at Waseda University had been "audacious" for telling Japanese that they could benefit from new trade deals. In fact, Mr Clinton appeared to get

away with interfering in Japan's domestic affairs just two weeks before an election.

"I'm having a good time," Mr Clinton said. So, too, was Hillary Clinton, who was making almost as big an impression as her husband. At home, gossip columns noted approvingly that she was accompanied by a new hairdresser who charges only \$17 (£11) when he touches her tresses. Sylvain Melloot, owner of a low-cost salon in Washington, was reckoned to have rescued Mrs Clinton's hair after it was cut disastrously short by a Manhattan hairdresser for \$275. Mr Melloot is Mrs Clinton's fifth hairdresser in eight months.

Mr Clinton's aides said that during the summit sessions he had talked to them repeatedly of his admiration for Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor. By contrast, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, Mr Clinton's relations with Mr Major remain "somewhat cool", apparently because of the Conservatives' help for George Bush during the American election.

Treasure hunting in Titanic graveyard provokes an outcry

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

A FRESH battle is under way in the waters above the Titanic between treasure hunters, who see the wreck as an historical goldmine that should be exploited before it should be disintegrated, and those who say that because it is the graveyard of 1,523 people who drowned when the great ship went down in 1912, it should be left undisturbed.

Last week a New York salvage company, RMS Titanic Inc, brought to America more than 800 artefacts from the Titanic, which lies 350 miles off Newfoundland and 25 miles below the Atlantic. The company, which plans to make at least five more dives, says that an international exhibition of the findings will earn at least \$65 million while preserving "an important part of our history". None of the items will be sold.

"We consider it grave-robbing," Leonard McCann, of the Vancouver Maritime Museum, told *The New York Times*, a view echoed by curators, historians, archaeologists and Titanic experts, who maintain that there is nothing in the wreck that does not exist in rather better condition elsewhere.

RMS Titanic has agreed not to salvage anything from inside the hull, as a mark of respect. "There is no cemetery in which the Titanic dead are buried," Jack Eaton, an historian who travelled with the salvage crew, said. "The hull represents the memorial." Most items have been retrieved from "debris fields" around the ship.

"People are doing this to

make money," Karen Kamuda, of the Titanic Historical Society, told *USA Today*. "There isn't any archaeological civilisation to be discovered."

The wreck of the vessel, which sank on its maiden voyage from Southampton, was found by a US Navy and French research team eight years ago. But the legal status of the wreck has never been resolved. The leader of the team, Dr Robert Ballard, of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution at Cape Cod, argued that the ship should be left undisturbed.

In 1986, the Reagan administration said that talks should be held to designate the site an international memorial and establish rules on salvage and research. The talks were never held.

Two years after Dr Ballard's discovery, a mini-submarine brought back about 1,800 objects, including crockery, jewellery, toys and even a set of bagpipes, most of which are on display in France. Almost every team to have salvaged artefacts subsequently argues that the bulk should be left alone, and the team of Russian, American and Canadian film-makers who visited the site in 1991 was no exception.

The company hopes to attract about 7,000 visitors a day when the exhibition opens next year at the National Maritime Museum in London. It will tour the world for at least ten years before coming to rest in a permanent exhibition, probably in New York, the Titanic's original destination in 1912.

President pledges aid to Mississippi flood victims

BY IAN BRODIE

PRESIDENT Clinton gave a radio address from Tokyo yesterday to assure victims of the Mississippi flooding that he had not forgotten them, and to promise that he would ask Congress next week to approve emergency aid.

"Just as we depend on you for the harvest, so you can depend on us for support in this critical phase of your lives," said Mr Clinton, who interrupted his deliberations at the G7 summit to make the broadcast to the stricken areas of the Midwest.

The swollen Mississippi river has spread seven miles beyond its banks north of St Louis and forced the evacuation of thousands of people from their homes in Illinois, Iowa, and parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri and South Dakota. The flooding has claimed 16 lives and caused damage to property and crops running into billions of dollars. With more rain forecast, residents, National Guard troops and even prison inmates were filling sandbags and building temporary dikes to try to hold back the waters.

Mr Clinton stopped in the flood region on his way to Tokyo, but was obviously advised not to repeat the error of George Bush, who visited the devastation caused by Hurricane Andrew in Florida last year, and then urged the thousands left homeless by doing nothing to pull together his government's inadequate response to the disaster.

Mr Clinton said his directions were simple, urgent and clear: "All federal agencies must co-ordinate their actions. Teamwork is the order of the day. I am determined to have

a federal response that rises to the occasion and deals effectively with the problems you are facing." He added: "I've asked our budget director, Leon Panetta, to begin assembling a funding bill that will provide emergency assistance to the region."

Mr Clinton did not specify how much he would request, but he said the funds would be "on an emergency basis", paying for damages and loss to crops, homes and businesses.

Aid would be delivered responsibly, efficiently, and without delay at centres where to take heart and have faith," he told the victims and volunteer helpers. "As hard as these times are, you know that the waters will soon recede and the work of recovery will begin."

Record spring and summer rains have left flood-control systems along the Mississippi virtually useless against the deluge. At Davenport, Iowa, where the Mississippi's normal flow is 52,000 gallons a second, the river has been running at almost four times that rate.

Mr Clinton stopped in Iowa on Sunday to view the flood damage before flying to Japan to attend the G7 summit. "What I saw in Iowa last weekend when I was there with Secretary Espy [Michael Espy, the agriculture secretary] were conditions as bad as I have ever seen," he said.

In Iowa alone, farm economists estimate that late planting of corn and soybean has cost the state at least \$750 million (£496 million).

Heat wave: Hospitals along America's eastern seaboard were braced yesterday for victims of the heat wave that has produced suffocating temperatures and claimed at least two lives.

In Maryland, an 89-year-old woman died after turning on the heating instead of the air conditioning. In Washington, the 43-year-old caretaker of the Lincoln Memorial died while working on the statue.

The heat wave, which is stifling Americans from Maine to South Carolina, is expected to hold on for some time because of a huge high-pressure system. Doctors have warned people to stay indoors. (AFP)



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and subsequently confirmed in writing.

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Enquiries about the procedures set out in this advertisement should be made in writing to the above address or by telephone on the numbers listed opposite.

British
COAL

America's vulnerability to terrorism is dawning on its citizens, writes Ben Macintyre

Exploding the myth

Someone, somewhere in America, has spent much of the past 15 years building and sending letter-bombs to university teachers, airline executives and high-tech businesses. The bomber's aims are obscure, the FBI knows him only as "Unibom" (the University bomber), but his signature is unmistakable: lethal little parcels, 8 in by 11 in, packed with high explosive.

Unibom, according to the FBI, carried out a dozen attacks in the seventies and eighties until, in 1987, he abruptly stopped. Then, last month, in the space of three days, two academic scientists, at Yale University and the University of California, were critically injured by identical letter-bombs sent, the FBI concluded, by Unibom.

As terrorism, Unibom's bizarre vendetta may lack the drama of the World Trade Centre bombing: it may not have the international dimensions of the efforts to extradite Shaikh Omar Abdel Rahman, the Muslim cleric believed to be the inspiration behind a series of bombing plots in New York, or the consistent savagery of the IRA. But in its warped unpredictability, the return of the university bomber has reaffirmed for many Americans their vulnerability to, and inexperience of, terrorism on US soil.

The FBI has warned university teachers to beware of unexpected packages, and some universities and research centres have set up detection procedures to try to thwart the bomber. Before the June bombings, Unibom's most recent attack was in 1987 when an explosion in the parking lot of a computer sales company in Utah critically injured an employee. Witnesses had seen a white man, then aged 25 to 35, placing a package between two parked cars. The FBI concluded that the bomber knew he had been seen, because the attacks lasted for six years.

Between 1978 and 1987, federal officials say, the bomber killed one person, a computer shop owner, and injured 21 people, including academics, airline staff and computer company workers.

Why Unibom should have selected this moment to attack again remains as mysterious as his motives, but he could not have chosen a time when Americans were more psychologically fragile, more susceptible to the sudden, largely random violence that is the terrorist's principal weapon.

The attack on the World Trade Centre in February was initially dismissed as the work of isolated fanatics. But as evidence of further, more grandiose, bombing plots emerged, many Americans realised that terrorism is not simply a by-product of foreign affairs but a crucial domestic problem that will not go away.

Shaikh Omar Abdel Rahman and Unibom represent the two opposite poles of American terrorism: the former has become an immediately identifiable villain, a simple hate-figure to assuage a deeply complex problem; while the latter, perhaps no less terror-inducing, remains faceless, nameless, motiveless and horribly effective.



Shaikh Omar: a target of hate

A marriage made in Hello!

Rachel Kelly peers through the rosy glow surrounding Raine Spencer's third wedding

As the new Comtesse de Chambrun descended the steps of Westminster Register Office yesterday, she confided in one of the paparazzi who encircled the newly-weds. Her husband, Jean-François, she said, was "amazed at all the publicity. This kind of thing would never happen in the south of France."

Nor would it have happened in England a few years ago. This, after all, is not a royal wedding, but that of the twice-married Raine, Countess Spencer, to an obscure French count. Yet it generates a prime-time slot on the BBC news and headlines in all the tabloids.

The nation's desire for romance has clearly been whipped to new heights. We cannot get enough of love-at-first-sight, fairy-tale weddings and happy ever afters. And the reason, in part, is *Hello!* magazine.

Until the glossy began covering celebrity weddings in its inimitable style, there was no outlet for no-holds-barred coverage of love affairs of the famous. There were only the tabloids, whose aim was to dig the dirt, not don rose-coloured spectacles.

Now the fiction of Barbara Cartland (the comtesse's mother) has its counterpart in the real-life loves portrayed in *Hello!*. Even the headlines read rather like one of her novels. I quote from the magazine's first interview with the happy couple. "Speaking of romance and of the past in a revealing interview at Count Jean-François de Chambrun's château." No wonder it is the novelist's favourite magazine. "It's so pleasant," she said recently, "it's wonderful to read something nice for a change, something which doesn't have to find fault with people." Hype has triumphed over experience.

We are now a nation dosed with a weekly fix of romance, and we're hooked. *Hello!*'s sales figures rise inexorably,



A triumph of hype over experience: a kiss for the bride from her French count — and if there was an unreal air of the fairy-tale, where is the harm?

(they now stand at about 500,000) and a rash of pale imitators has cropped up. Soon we will become like the Spanish, the home of *Holà!*, where fairy-tale weddings have long been part of the daily news diet.

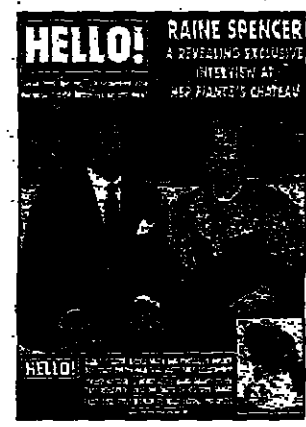
And why not? Everyone wins. Nancy Mitford's maxim that you should only be in the papers three times (and she meant announcements on the Court and Social pages of *The Times*) when you were born, married and died is outdated in a world where publicity is

the oil of every successful venture.

Raine wins. In her enthusiasm for the magazine, her mother confirmed that a £70,000 cheque would be paid for exclusive coverage of the wedding. Count Jean-François, we know from less sycophantic sources, needs the money. The more that *Hello!* pays for the wedding, the less the de Chambruns will have to pour into the count's collapsing château in the south of France — and who will argue against conserving old buildings?

Courtesy of *Hello!*'s excellent photographers, Raine and Jean-François will have a marvellous set of snaps at their disposal, backlit and airbrushed, in which the pair of them look dashing.

And we the readers are able to enjoy the fantasy, while reading some genuinely revealing snippets. Here is Jean-François on his first meeting with Raine in Monaco. "I knew instantly that this was a very special woman. And I



Cover story: Hello! has bought exclusive rights

was not going to let her go. I was a paratrooper in the French Army, and when I spotted a target, I aim for it immediately." Interesting use of the word "target", *n'est-ce-pas?* In the light of later revelations about his search for a rich heiress.

Or Raine's answer to *Hello!*'s comment: "You always appeared dignified and in

control of your emotions, even at the funeral [of the late Earl Spencer, her second husband]."

"Yes, that is one thing I have in common with the Royal Family. We were brought up never to display any emotion in public. I believe you should only let out your deepest feelings in private. No-one ever saw me cry." In the friendly spotlight, interviewees let slip in a way they would never do if they were on their guard.

Of course there is a seamer side to Raine's weddings which the tabloids have been happy to expose: the National Front links of her future brother-in-law, the allegations that Jean-François has debts of £360,000, and the kiss-n-tell of a former girl-friend, Nicole Bruggemann, who claimed that she spent the night with Jean-François after his engagement to Raine.

We shall never know the truth, but we do know that the words of Raine and Jean-François in *Hello!* are from

the horse's mouth. And are we really interested? The appeal of Raine's wedding is the good news it provides.

Here is a chance to enjoy, in Bagehot's words, the pageant of near-royalty: the glittering expression of the universal. Martyn Lewis's campaign for good news struck a chord. While many items of news would be unsuitable, a wedding genuinely fits his criteria.

Ultimately, the fantasy may become a fact. Like Max Beerbohm's Happy Hypocrite, who smiled to disguise his misery and who eventually became happy, for all we know Raine and Jean-François will be happy, too. As we know from the pages of *Hello!*, Raine isn't going to let on either way, so we might as well believe her story. For one will be buying next week's issue to see what will undoubtedly be the best pictures of the occasion — and the text might just be true, too.

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Girls gunning for revenge

Violence has a fatal attraction for young women aping the behaviour of the boys

If Scott Beaumont had not tried to ruin Nicola Mott and Avril Gregory's holiday he would still be alive. The two teenage girls returned home furious with the 16-year-old boy, who had repeatedly taunted them and called them slags while they were staying in a caravan park in Cleethorpes, Humberside.

Not long after the holiday, Nicola bumped into Scott in his home town of Wombwell, South Yorkshire. He repeated the insults. Some girls might have cried. Others would have insulted him back. Many would have sworn revenge, but few would have acted on it.

But Nicola, aged 16, Avril, aged 18, and two other teenagers, armed themselves with a pickaxe handle, a wooden baton, a crowbar and two daggers and went out hunting for Scott. When they found him Nicola plunged a knife into his heart, while Avril urged her on. On Wednesday, the two went in each other's arms as they were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Girls have always bickered in the playground but for a long time criminologists believed they were biologically incapable of violent crime, because their instinct was to preserve life. But the facts are disproving the theories. Incidents in recent years have included the cases of Maria Rossi and Christina Molloy,



Biting the bullet: films such as *Thelma and Louise* reflect increasing violence by women

who were both 17 when they strangled Edna Phillips, their 70-year-old neighbour, with a dog chain, slashed her face and smashed eggs over her body.

Many psychologists believe that the disturbing rise in violence by girls is an inevitable legacy of the women's movement. Women are seizing upon equality in crime, too.

Dr John Coleman, the director of the Trust for the Study of Adolescents, says: "Girls are feeling more able to express their resentment. Our society is gradually encouraging women to be more assertive and to feel that they don't always have to accept the unequal power structure in which they cannot protest at male behaviour."

"Over the past 10 or 15 years we have seen an increasing resort to violence as a way of solving an issue and expressing anger. We can't expect young women to be immune from that."

In the past, women were less affected than men by high unemployment because they could retreat into domesticity,

that joining gangs is only another sign of girls wanting to be like boys. "Women are no longer passive, but like men they see that there is safety in numbers. Being in a gang gives the illusion of being immune from punishment. A gang culture, she says, pushes weak people into crimes they would not consider alone."

People lose their critical faculties in a group and get encouraged into things they wouldn't do as an individual."

Meanwhile, Hollywood is making more films that glamorise female violence. From *Fatal Attraction* to *Thelma and Louise*, the message has been that scorned women do not just get mad, they get a gun. The remake of *Nikita*, starring Bridget Fonda, shows a woman who spends her days in a beauty parlour and her nights as a contract killer. Mrs Sellers says: "I am becoming more and more convinced that these films have a marked influence on some susceptible people."

Julia Llewellyn Smith

مركز الامن الاسلامي

Will the bug in the bodywork debilitate the rampant car thief? Ralph Kanter, for one, is confident

'I can stop the disruption and aggro of having your car stolen'

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

RALPH Kanter sits on his leafy terrace in Hampstead, in a prosperous street awash with burglar alarms and very shiny new cars, four of them in his drive. Mr Kanter made his fortune out of burglar alarms, with Britannia Security. Having sold it to ADT three years ago, he was enjoying a restful semi-retirement that left plenty of time, at 55, to do what he likes best, which is hunting in Hampshire on his horse Charlie. Then he went out to dinner one night and the talk turned to car theft.

It is a ludicrous fact of modern life that cars cause crime. They invite it. Theft from and of cars accounts for 28 per cent of recorded offences. Having your car window broken and the radio or car telephone stolen is tiresome — as the Metropolitan police chief, Paul Condon, found this week while he lunched at the Garrick Club — but both are replaceable in a few hours. Losing the whole car is another matter.

It is, in Mr Kanter's words, "the disruption, the buggery, the aggro, the inconvenience, the helplessness. It's losing your maps and tapes and books and picnic rugs — and then hiring another car,



and losing your no-claims." I know. One in 37 of us loses a car every year. My family-sized Toyota vanished in March and was one of the 38 per cent never seen again. Hunter Davies had his car

stolen from outside his house in April, replaced it a month later and the new one was stolen the next day. When Michael Holroyd and Margaret Drabble's car disappeared, they gleefully realised they could ring it up on the carphone — only to have the phone answered by the thieves, chortling merrily as they drove into oblivion.

Surely, said Mr Kanter and his friends, there must be some technology to locate a stolen car? There is: it was invented in America, where it is called Lojack (the opposite of hi-jack) and it has dramatically reduced car theft in Boston, the auto-theft capital of the US, by 41 per cent in six years. Kanter heard about it from Peter Hume, who supplies the police with speed scanners. He had told the British police about it, and they said what a good idea: ask the Home Office. So he asked the Home Office who said good idea, ask the police. Then he was told, for a radio frequency to transmit the signals on, you'll need



Driver: Ralph Kanter with the Tracker that picks up signals from the small device hidden in a stolen car. "The police are so excited, it's like having a tiger by the tail."

the DTL. "So it went on. Everybody agreed it was a good idea, but somebody else had to act."

Then Kanter came in, he says (referring to himself in the third person). "Kanter had been in the security business. Kanter had been invited by the Douglas Hurd to sit on Crime Concern. It captured my imagination. My head was buzzing with the figures. Car theft up by 60 per cent in five years: so we now have the highest rate of car theft in Europe. Here was a huge problem, and a solution, but nobody would say 'let's go'."

"I may be just a boring businessman," he says, pouring chilled white wine. "But I became a man possessed, driven. People said you'll never get every police force in the country to act together, and it looked as if they were right. It took two years to get them all to agree to take part. Now every chief constable in the

land has now signed a contract with us. It was like fitting a jigsaw together."

Thus three years passed, as he sat in his small spare bedroom swamped by files and paperwork: in research, legal work, licensing a radio frequency and getting the AA's agreement to market it. And even with lawyers and accountants working on deferred payment, to be repaid when they raised the necessary £8 million, Kanter and colleagues had a struggle to raise the money.

"We went to venture capitalists, but they weren't looking at new ventures. We went to companies like Hanson, the Saatchis, Carlton, Cable and Wireless. Some nearly agreed to invest — but that's like being nearly pregnant. Finally we went to the stockbrokers Williams de Broe, and we got the money from Mr and Mrs Joe Public. We sold shares at £2.57 and could have sold

them twice over: by March 18 we banked our £8 million." Mr and Mrs Joe Public's shares — as yet unquoted — already trade at £7.20, he says. Nice work: but will Tracker do the trick of flogging thieves and finding one's Toyota?

"It is dead simple," Kanter says. "You bring your car to us. We give you a cup of coffee, and you wait about 45 minutes while we fit the unit in a hidden place. We won't show it to you, or let you watch, or even tell you where it is. The transponder is very small, and will get even smaller. We can hide it in any one of 30 or more places and there's no sign or sticker to say it's there. It can receive and send a radio signal, a bit like your carphone — and it just sits in the car doing nothing, until the car is stolen."

"You tell the police, and then call us on an 0800 number. We confirm with police that it is on the computer as a stolen

car, and send a radio signal through a nationwide network of transmitters. The cleverness of this invention is in the software. It doesn't matter where your car is — the unit in your car receives our signal, and starts to transmit a bleep."

"THE TRACKER sits on the police car's dashboard and when your stolen car is bleeping it is within three or five miles, saying 'Hey Mr policeman, I'm a stolen car and I'm here', giving a code number. When our computer is asked what the code belongs to, it sends another signal to your car saying 'now transmit a bleep every one second'. The clock on the tracker then shows the police exactly where the car is — where to turn right, left or straight ahead, and the light moves up its column as he gets closer. When it fills to the top, he is looking at the car. It can take ten minutes. The policeman does not chase the stolen car. The stolen car says, come and collect me."

"They have fitted Trackers to police cars in all 51 forces, but in how many of their cars? 'Lots,' says Kanter. 'The police are so excited, it's like having a tiger by the tail.'"

It all sounds almost too pat. But even the sceptics admit it is worth a try. The nationwide police operation starts from August 16, when anyone can get a tracker device fitted. Kanter expects to be embar-

rassed by the demand. It will cost £160, plus about £1 a week, but the big insurance companies (25 of them) will give Tracker users a discount of around 10 per cent on their premium. You don't have to be an AA member, but if you are they will bring your car back free, even if it's in John O'Grass.

"You want figures?" Kanter says. "Here are figures. In America, of all the cars fitted with the device and subsequently stolen, they have found 94 per cent of them, most within a few hours. The fastest was seven minutes. And this in a country which hasn't got the device nationwide. We have."

Kanter was the son of German immigrants who scrimped and sacrificed to send their boy to Brynston. At Britannia, he developed the supermarket bar-code that bleeps things through checkouts, so he is well acquainted with the light-fingered tendency, the epidemic of shop-lifting and the general prevalence of theft. He has lost two cars himself, and in his salubrious street one night recently, four Peugeot (two of them in his own drive) were stripped of their spare tyres.

"Car alarms," he says, "are no longer up to the problem. They make a lot of noise and nobody takes any notice, and as fast as they are installed the villains find ways of disarming them. The current vogue is

the car immobiliser — but haven't you heard of thieves loading your immobilised car onto a stolen breakdown truck? And now we have car-jacking. It happened to one of my share-holders the other day. He backs out of his drive, and gets out to open the gates. Someone jumps out of the bushes, jumps into the car and — while he holds open the gates — drives it away. That poor woman beaten up the other day in Sainsbury's car park — what did the thief want? Her car keys."

"It is becoming horrendous," says Kanter, "and there is no safeguard against an attack like that. But if your car is hi-jacked, we can track it."

I remember what one Chief Constable, John Over of Gwent, told me a few months ago. It was unfair, he said, that successive home secretaries made it appear that crime prevention had become incumbent upon the potential victim. "The seventh commandment is 'Thou shalt not steal,'" he said. "Not, 'thou shalt make thy car burglar-proof.' But we could recite the commandments till the day of doom, and there would still be a walling and gnashing of teeth by one in 37 of us. But villains be warned. The old urban myth of the car being stolen with the dead granny on the roof-rack could now be replaced by the one about the cunning little bug in the bodywork."

Where daddies are a myth

Low-life Britain today — by the no-hope single mums and their fatherless children

Good morning. I'd like you to meet two new acquaintances of mine, Karen and Elaine. They're both single parents in their early thirties, very like those whom John Redwood met, and was shocked by, on the St Mellons estate in Cardiff.

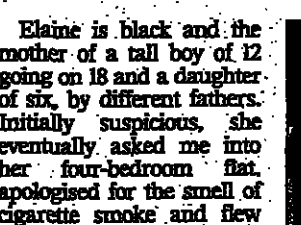
They live in the low-rise section of a London council estate, where, as at St Mellons, fathers are thin on the ground. Very thin on the ground. Doing a Redwood there, talking to the women and children the Welsh Secretary calls "one of the biggest social problems of our day", I soon saw why Daddy, in the traditional sense, is a myth there on a par with Father Christmas.

At five you realise that neither exists, and by 23 your mum has learnt that husbands are fairy tales. It was only when Amber, Karen's six year old, said it was unfair that you could only be in the newspaper if you didn't have a boyfriend or a husband that the proud owner of one such was produced. She and I congratulated one another on our rarity and good fortune.

I make no claims for Karen and Elaine as being typical or representative, but I just thought you might like to hear what they had to say. They were kind enough to talk, and I had more time than Mr Redwood to listen.

Karen is white and the mother of two pretty blonde daughters, aged 12 and six, and a touselled boy of 16 months, all by different fathers. The first two have disappeared: "I had a fella round from the social about that, and I said 'it's down to you to find them, and good luck to you.' The baby's father is a brickie, now unemployed, in Liverpool. "He comes down occasionally and helps out when he can. We'd like to live together but it's awkward. We'd get about £16 a week less than we do now. It does make it hard for families to stay together."

Gamine, cheerful and down to earth, she sat cross-legged in the living room of her two-bedroom flat, overlooking the grassy courtyard where the children of the estate congregate. Natasha, the older girl, acts like a little mother to half of them. The room is dominated by a sewing machine and a tropical fish tank built into one wall by the brickie. Housing benefit pays the rent — £86 a week. Karen keeps her £129-a-month child benefit aside for the bills, and the four of them live on £64-a-week income support. "I'm fortunate because me parents mates help each other out." She is poor but happy.



MARGOT NORMAN

Elaine is black and the mother of a tall boy of 12 going on 18 and a daughter of six, by different fathers. Initially suspicious, she eventually asked me into her four-bedroom flat, apologised for the smell of cigarette smoke and flew about with a room spray. We sat on an elderly suite surrounded by bric-a-brac with dillies and decanters on the sideboard, an English hunting scene and a glass heart engraved with a poem to Mother on the wall.

Dainty and soft-spoken Jamaican in manner, she has been deeply depressed for five years. She asked what schizo-affective disorder was. Her doctor says she has it. Her financial circumstances are similar to Karen's and she also has parents nearby, but they are not supportive.

"I'm on me own. Ismael dad, he's intelligent, he done British Telecom and can fix the TV. He used to give me something occasionally, but now he study for some law and there been nothing for a year and a half. Vanessa dad? He Mr Stud, he got six kids, pops up once or twice a year. He got a flat — this is how they boss it, see —

and a girlfriend with a house and a car. She's educated, not like me. They like them educated now."

Both girls got pregnant at 18, by accident the first time. Both had married parents who were shocked, yet both have younger sisters who are also single mothers. Elaine's grandmother, a pastor, raised her in Jamaica till she was 12. To her horror, her parents have divorced after 30 years of Christian marriage. Passively, both girls became career mothers on the social. They cooked, sewed, added children and created pastiche families. Karen says it's cobblers that fatherless children get into trouble more, but then she has two biddable daughters.

"Kids who have fathers who give them money still get into trouble," is the way she sees it. At 12, Elaine's son is already in trouble at school, keeps Durex in his pocket and has his girlfriend staying overnight. Elaine is half-proud ("you should see his private") and half-anxious. She can see the abyss yawning ahead, and frets about being unable to help her son with his schooling, just as her own uneducated parents

were unable to help with hers. She is of that West Indian generation whose parents trusted the British system to deliver learning and discipline and felt cruelly betrayed when they saw it spew out their children as wayward illiterates.

"Children do need fathers, but supportive ones who will help them with their education," she says.

Where to find such men? "God needs to drop some decent men down from the sky. Everybody's scared to look how it really is, how one man got seven or ten women and all those kids," says Elaine. "I know two people got husbands. They're Africans. One woman, she got a little job but she's on social security, her husband sleeps somewhere else, he's studying. They got four children, she keeps them all, he comes home, phones all over the world and leaves her to pay the bill. The other one, she takes the children to school, then she do her job, then she go to college, then she do home sewing at night for money, and her husband he just studying. She can break down, with all that stress. So that's husbands for you."

To politicians who say people like her are a drain on the state, Karen responds simply: "I'd like to see one of them manage on what they give us at the moment." Both women are nostalgic for the time they were first pregnant, when the state made things easier.

"Life was beautiful before Mrs Thatcher came in and said 'We are going to learn those bastards not to go breeding up,'" says Elaine, "but you can't learn 'em. People go on doing it just the same. We had three pots of food on the fire and more in the fridge to waste, we didn't have stress in them days. What I haven't got is education. If you got education you can say 'blow the men, blow the chile', you can override the stress."

In other words, you can have a proper job and be proud of yourself and not feel, as Elaine does acutely, that you've accomplished nothing. She dreams of being a singer or a healer. The government has just spent £1,200 on a professional sewing course to get her off social security, but she has no belief in herself. Karen says she'd love a job but can't imagine how she'd ever get one lucrative enough to pay a child minder.

I'm not sure she really would love a job, though. It must be tempting just to stick with what you know and have another child, leaving such alien concepts as taking control, thinking ahead and refusing to be a victim to another, tougher breed of single mother.



A one-parent family: surviving on wits, sewing and social security



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Philip Howard



Poets and novelists do not avoid clichés: they just get to them first

At this moment in time, hopefully, it is a truth universally acknowledged by every mother's son, not to mention (then why mention it?) every man Jack, and the whole of Grub Street, grub and grubbage, on unimpeachable authority that your common-or-garden cliché is a weary, stale, flat and unprofitable blot on the wordscape, and that it behoves all good guys and dolls to avoid it like the plague. Auntie BBC has now got her knickers in a twist and joined the clumpdown, not to say crackdown, not to say Lingogate (please don't), on clichés by issuing to staff a stylebook intended to purge its programmes of clichés and other linguistic bad behaviour.

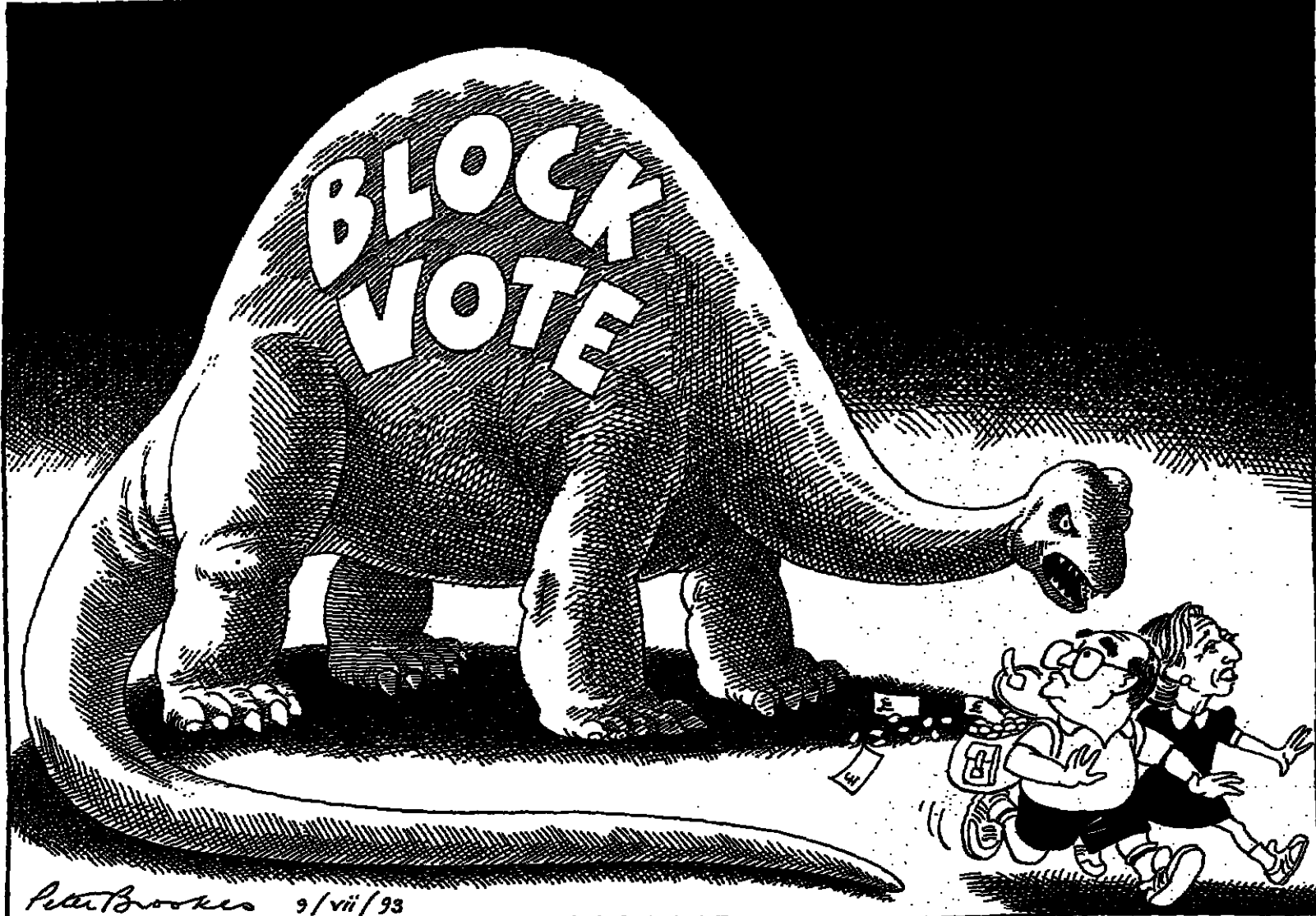
This is a consummation devoutly to be wished, and likely to be more honoured in the breach than the observance (a battered ornament as usual misused to convey the erroneous impression that *Hamlet* is seldom out of the writer's hands, and giving the opposite meaning to the one usually intended). But the BBC has no more hope of killing the cliché than Canute had of turning back the tide (the great sea king was not daft enough to suppose he could: his was a sarcastic charade to shame his fulsome courtiers), or Dame Partridge had of turning back the Atlantic with her mop. Now she has become a born-again respectable reference, because almost everyone has forgotten who she was.

Not everybody can create new phrases, and with the billions of words being published and broadcast around the world every hour, a rule that nothing should ever be repeated would bring the world to a shuddering halt. Poets and creative writers mint striking new expressions. These are at once picked up and copied and adapted by the rest of the world, until the clichés eventually become laughing-stocks. Clichés are dead poetry. Most journalists and broadcasters are not poets but professionals with deadlines or the hardest job of all, ad libbing for a live broadcast.

English, being an imaginative and vast language, is naturally full of clichés, and in danger of being poisoned by its own excretions. It continually casts them off, like a snake renewing its skin. Pity the humble, persecuted cliché. It is a boon and a blessing for headline-writers, because it is short and snappy. Probe is shorter and sounds punchier than investigation; and sack is more dramatic (and wounding) than "agreed to part company". Much broadcasting is not meant to be listened to with attention, but to provide comforting background noise. A commentary on tennis or even most of the news would be intolerable if you had to concentrate on it as though it were a philosophy lecture. Clichés are familiar friends to soothe the readers and listeners. We know where we are with them.

Any list of prohibited clichés starts to go out of date as soon as it is published, because magpie hacks and broadcasters are already busy coining and adapting the new clichés. All big publishing houses and broadcasting bodies try to impose a house style, but it inevitably looks silly. The best that can be done is prohibit the *bêtes noires* of those who write the style book, but one man's skunk may be another man's dear gazelle. *The Times* once introduced a ban on using words of more than 11 letters, which wasted a lot of sub-editors' time counting on fingers, and another ban on starting sentences with "it", which ruled out the opening sentence of *Pride and Prejudice*. Our leading article explaining the new style used the effective rhetorical device of beginning three successive sentences of its peroration with the wicked pronoun.

Shakespeare wrote more clichés than any other scribbler, from "sea change" to "blinking idiot" and from "to the manner born" to "the milk of human kindness". But he anticipated their clichédness. Even Homer nodded at clichés, never mentioning Thebes, for example, without adding that she had silver feet, and using the same formulaic lines to describe every sacrifice followed by a barbecue. There is a comfort in old, off-the-peg phrases. We do not have to concentrate. And now let's make some new clichés. This monstrous column of old ones has sent me at one fell swoop into the arms of Morpheus, and is cruel punishment for you, Best Beloved, so that you may fold your paper like the Arabs, and as silently steal away.



JURASSIC PERKS

Pats are for puppies

We are all being nannied back into the cradle with regulations and advice. And now the government has gone barking

I have long been persuaded that there is on foot a massive conspiracy, heedless of expense, to reduce us all to the status of children. I first realised what was going on when the thousands of licensed London taxis (the "black cabs") were descended upon by hundreds of mad officials, drooling with the anticipation of irritating the drivers and doing much more than irritate the passengers.

The black cab had been, for very many years, one of the safest vehicles on the road. The safety was ensured partly because of the skill of the drivers, partly because the cabs had to go through a very strict annual examination, held by the Metropolitan police, and partly because of the exceptionally well-made structure of the cabs themselves. In particular, the interior handle was made of fitted in such a way that to fall out a passenger would have to be very drunk, one-legged and balancing eight large suitcases on his head.

Here I must digress for a moment. I wonder if anyone has made a serious study of the way that government departments, towards the end of the financial year, are hunting for small projects costing many millions; it is clear, to me at least, that these millions are being hurriedly spent because if the department had a surplus their allocation for the next year might be cut. Surely no other solution fits the way that the Mint has been pouring out a series of banknotes each more hideous and shameful than the one before, and has been, *pari passu*, strewing the land with a quite exceptionally nasty coinage.

Well, perhaps this boondoggle was played out on the black cabs, for suddenly an army of snoopers, nannies, money-wasters, power-grabbers and plain nuisances descended on the cabbies, tore out the excellent safety handle, and replaced it by something considerably more dangerous: the passenger is not only locked in, but is told as much, in red letters, which must be very good for nervous old ladies and passengers with heart trouble.

But worse than the waste is the idiot nannying. Diagrams strew the interior; some helpfully suggest that the passenger should not get out through the roof, while others explain what a window is. And of course nanny has never explained why, when the passenger slides the window down, instructed by more diagrams, it immediately slides up shut, which must comfort those with heart

trouble even more when the temperature is in the 90s.

As I said, my belief that the government intends to force us into second childhood stemmed from the taxi story, but wherever you look now the evidence piles up. You may, for instance, have read my article about the publican who smoked a pipe, scrupulously avoiding any contact between his pipe and his customers' tankards, but who was threatened with prosecution. An even worse item is the distribution to farmers of hundreds of forms to fill in, under penalty — which forms were supplied in some cases one day before the date the farmers had to return them on pain of prosecution. (That was Gummer's work, of course.)

Now, however, all mere suspicions are wiped out; we now have an irrefutable certainty. The environment department, obviously desperate to waste money lest it should later find difficulty in wasting even more, has published a pamphlet, free to anyone who asks for it, which is devoted entirely to the crucial subject of why dogs bark and how they can be made to stop doing so.

Once more I put my reputation in the hazards: I am not making this up. The pamphlet lies before me: its opening words are "Barking comes naturally to dogs"; well, few of us would think that they had to be taught the art. The document continues with an even more striking revelation, saying: "...the constant barking or whining of a dog can be disturbing or annoying for the neighbours." Then, again, we learn from the ministry's in-depth research the astonishing news that "There are many reasons why your dog may bark". Starting insights now begin to flow in their dozens; for instance, "Some dogs will bark because they want to join in what's going on outside" — for you and me an insoluble problem, but not for the minister, who is ready — the quickness of hand deceives the eye — with "If this is the problem, try leaving your dog so that

he cannot see outside". (I suppose I would be thought frivolous if I suggested another solution altogether — viz., poke his eyes out.)

Not content with all the anthropomorphic ghastliness, the ministry's nauseating prose is accompanied by drawings. Here, for instance, after a profound analysis of the problem of getting the dog accustomed to seeing its owner regularly going out, is a drawing of the event: the door is ajar, the lady of the house is waving her left hand (we know she is waving it, because it has those curved parallel lines that mean waving), and the dog is waving not only its right

forepaw (or, as the ministry would say if it dared, its right hand), but also its tail (as I deduce from seeing more of the motion lines). The owner is of course smiling throughout, and so, you will not be amazed to learn, is the dog.

Clearly, whoever wrote the text of the manual had in mind people who cannot even spell dog; after another catalogue of the obvious, we are told that "if you aren't coming home until after dark, leave a light on", a sentiment that is reinforced for illiterate dog-owners by a picture of a lightbulb.

So it goes on. We are told to "check that the room is not too hot or too cold", to "try not to leave your dog for long periods", to "think carefully about where you put his kennel". Moreover, "Training is important so that your dog does not bark at just anything that moves". "Be a responsible dog owner at all times". "Some dogs will settle only if they can hear a human voice; leaving a radio on at low volume might help". Yes, the ministry did add "But make sure the radio is not too loud. You don't want to have complaints about that". (Yes, the ministry did add the exclamation mark.)

Kindly go back for a moment to my opening shaft of gloom. Was I fantasising about the government's intention of reducing us all to children? Was I prophesying? Was I even exagger-

Bernard Levin

Live dangerously

NEVER one to adopt popular causes, Sir Alfred Sherman, former champion of Margaret Thatcher and famous defender of Jean-Marie Le Pen, has found a new and even more controversial hero.

Sherman, one of the founders of the Centre for Policy Studies, the Thatcherite think-tank, is in Sarajevo advising Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, on how to improve his appalling public image. Speaking from an office just down the corridor from Karadzic's headquarters in Pale, on the outskirts of Sarajevo, Sherman has no qualms: "I have never worried about popularity," he says. "But then I am normally proved right in the end."

His month long tour of duty follows a letter-writing campaign to the national newspapers, including *The Times*, in support of a Serbian cause he first warned to in the early 1990s, when working for the BBC World Service Serbo-Croat operation. Despite the horrors taking

place nearby, Sherman admits he is having a "rather nice time", as he is several miles from the front line. "You would hardly know a war is going on. And it is a lovely sunny day here." Each day he has lunch or dinner with the Serb leader and retires, late at night, to his apartment, which was built for the competitors in the 1984 Winter Olympics.

He says: "I like Radovan Karadzic. But who knows if I will succeed? There is a lot of work to do, many people to persuade. He may be unpopular. But you haven't tried working for Mrs Thatcher."

Bird and bull

SITTING comfortably? Then we'll begin, with an extract from *100 Best After-Dinner Stories*, an anthology published last year. Today's story, children, was chosen by that nice attorney-general chap Sir Nicholas Lyell, who is always getting involved with things like the Serious Fraud Office and Matrix Churchill. His favourite story, according to the

book, is actually a "reminiscence" of the former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev.

As Khrushchev was walking through the woods near Moscow one day he found an injured bird being chased by a hungry fox. He rescued the bird and, to keep it warm, placed it carefully in a fresh pile of horse manure. "The creature," Lyell relates, "benefited from the warmth and restoring vapours, popped his head up above the mound and began to sing. Whereupon the hungry fox came out of the woods and ate it up."

The moral, says Lyell, is, first, "that it is not only your enemies that drop you in it. Second, that if you are in it up to your neck, keep your mouth shut." Who could he mean?

According to Michael Mates, news of whose dinner at the Reform Club with Asil Nadir's PR man Christopher Morgan was leaked to ITN, "you can't trust the Reform Club". In which case is it not worrying that Sir Terence Burns, permanent secretary to the Treasury, and Stella Rimington, head of MI5, are proposing Sir Rodric Braithwaite, formerly our man in



DIARY

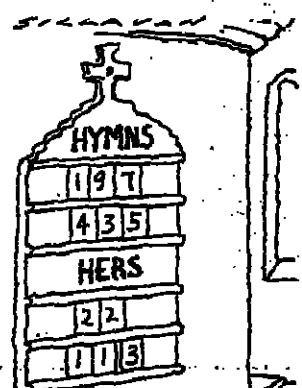
Moscow, for membership? Just think of the secrets those three must know.

Collared

TWO Anglican ministers marrying one another we shall doubtless get used to. But retired ministers marrying is likely to remain a rare event for some time. However, just such an aisle-blasting ceremony takes place tomorrow — when the Reverend Kathleen Clark, 60, marries the Reverend John LeRoy, 68, in Holy Trinity Church, Eastbourne.

It is the second time around for LeRoy, who was widowed four years ago. But he has known Clark since the 1920s, when he was the curate at All Souls, Langham Place, and she was a student in London. Clark sounds surprised at the prospect of marrying for the

first time, after spending 32 years with the South American Missionary Society. "I have always been happy single, but we feel this is the right for us. It is very unusual for two people in our position to be getting married. We may be the only ones ever — I have not heard of it before."



Without fire

ON MONDAY Professor Charles Fletcher, the chest specialist, is to be presented with a lifetime achievement award by the anti-smoking lobby group ASH, of which he is president. The award, to be presented by their patron the Duke of Gloucester, will celebrate the achievements of the man who in the 1960s persuaded the Royal College of Surgeons to produce their first ground-breaking report on the link between smoking and health.

But could it possibly be that the professor's anti-smoking views have mellowed in old age? At Spencer House on Wednesday night, celebrating the 90th birthday of his old friend Sir Steven Runciman, Fletcher, 82, said that smoking "only shortens the lives of 25 per cent of smokers. It's not my opinion. It's fact".

Nonetheless, he is not, he insists, considering taking up smoking again. "I did start smoking a pipe when I was having difficulty writing a monograph once, and I finished it within a month, but my smoking days are over."



It couldn't be a moment too soon

For five years Jonathan Dimbleby has gently guided the brunching Sunday-viewer through the maze of current affairs as presenter of the BBC's *On the Record*. Now he is quitting. It was confirmed yesterday. But after numerous seamlessly successful programmes, Dimbleby has not a moment's hesitation in naming his worst moment in the presenter's chair: it came in February 1990 with the release of Nelson Mandela.

"The expected time of release coincided with our going on air at 1pm," says Dimbleby, who still cringes at the memory. Unfortunately, Mandela was still behind bars at 2pm. "It was becoming more frantic in the studio as we had a fixed camera view of the prison. There is only so much you can say about a prison. I suspect that I said it. Again and again." He was finally put out of his agony when his programme was switched to BBC2. He says: "It was the low point. Or more accurately, the most bitter-sweet point. We had waited 20 minutes sooner."



TILL KINGDOM COME

Bosnia has been banished beyond Europe's pale

The summiters in Tokyo congratulated themselves yesterday on reducing this year's political communiqué from 22 pages to two. More to the point was the reduction of their position on Bosnia — to utter incoherence.

The world's great powers still intone the mantras of respect for Bosnia's territorial integrity. They still insist that they will not accept any settlement "unless it has the agreement of the three parties". But such words have lost all meaning. The West's will to back words with action collapsed in May — and those present at Tokyo know it.

At Munich last year, the G7 issued a specific threat to take military action if United Nations aid was obstructed. The UN Protection Force (Unprofor) was dispatched to Sarajevo, which now lies in ruins. Aid is now so vigorously obstructed today by force and demands for toll money that the UN Commissioner for Refugees may, in the absence of a greatly increased UN military presence under a transformed mandate, be forced to end the operation. Yet the Serbs and Croats have been warned only that if they continue dismembering Bosnia, "they will" — the summit even employed the future tense — "place themselves beyond the pale of the international community".

Where mediation, tight economic sanctions against Serbia and Unprofor's swollen but increasingly impotent presence has failed to stop this terrible war, nobody can believe that the prospect of being deprived of "reconstruction aid" when the war ends will have an impact. Immediate sanctions against Croatia and bombardment of Belgrade's supply lines to the Bosnian Serbs, plans under active consideration only weeks ago, were not even mooted.

The solemn pledge of support for UN Security Council resolution 836, to which the summit referred without mentioning the "safe areas" which are its object, is hollow. These areas, all densely populated, are being pulverised; and of the seven, the only country willing to provide more troops is France. The Tokyo declaration, which is being interpreted in Belgrade as the West's final renunciation of the use of force, has

heavily reinforced the position of Serbia's president, Slobodan Milosevic.

The only hint at tougher action is the vague statement that "stronger measures are not excluded". But according to Douglas Hurd, who went out of his way to laud Tokyo's "more realistic" approach yesterday, it means exactly the opposite. The reference, he said, was simply to lifting the arms embargo against the Muslims. One could, he said, imagine a situation in which the UN pulled out of Bosnia because it was "too dangerous to proceed, in which there are no negotiations, no hope of stopping the war. In that case, the arms embargo might well be lifted and all concerned would then fight it out from now till Kingdom Come."

This, from the man who three months ago flatly rejected arming the Muslims on the ground that it would only "create a level killing field", is breathtaking. Well might the foreign secretary describe this as "a policy of despair". The Times, which has consistently urged the West to use the power at its command to confront the Serbs, has opposed lifting the embargo. It has done so because such a policy made sense only if the West refused to enforce a settlement — and only then if accompanied by a dramatic escalation of the West's military commitment, including a readiness to attack bases and arms dumps in Serbia as well as Bosnia.

Without that protective cover, the most likely consequence was and is a massive pre-emptive Serb and Croat assault on the remaining Muslim-held lands. In May, President Clinton's "lift and strike" proposal approximated, albeit halfheartedly, to such a strategy. But by the time of the European Community's Copenhagen summit last month, he had dropped the vital protective component. Bosnia, in Margaret Thatcher's angry words last April, lies in Europe's sphere of influence and should be in "Europe's sphere of conscience". By opposing the initial American proposal, only to admit the possibility of falling in with its second, wholly cynical version, it is Bosnia, not Serbia or Croatia, that Mr Hurd has dismissed "beyond the pale".

THE WRONG RIGHTS

Amnesty must not lose sight of its mission

The annual report by Amnesty International is both a grim reflection of humankind's capacity to cause suffering and a tribute to the contradictory desire to prevent it. In 1992, the international human rights group investigated 3,000 cases of torture, arbitrary imprisonment, disappearance and other attacks on political and civil rights in 161 countries. The global map of human brutality drawn in its pages has villains old and new. "An enduring pattern of repression" is reported in countries such as Burma, the Philippines, East Timor and Sri Lanka.

The horrors of Bosnia have also pushed Europe well up the ladder of infamy and oppression. In Africa, the statelessness of Somalia has spawned "atrocities on a massive scale", while General Babangida's regime in Nigeria has continued to make arbitrary arrests and imprison political dissenters: most recently the outstanding novelist Ken Saro-Wiwa.

But this report is more than a fatalistic litany. In the 32 years since its foundation by the lawyer Peter Benenson, Amnesty has exercised genuinely effective moral leverage, forcing politicians and officials around the world to acknowledge international pressure, if not to search their consciences.

Today, however, there are alarming signs that its mission is becoming confused. Amnesty, founded in response to a newspaper article on political prisoners, has always concentrated on infringements of political and civil rights. The prisoner of conscience has been the main focus of Amnesty's

concern, enabling the citizen of a democracy to identify personally with an oppressed individual on the other side of the world.

At the United Nations human rights conference in Vienna last month, Pierre Sané, Amnesty's Senegalese secretary-general, emphasised instead the "indivisibility" of human rights and the interdependence of political and socio-economic rights. This was an unfortunate choice of tactic, given the attacks on the most basic civil rights which dominated the gathering. Mr Sané, who is a highly articulate spokesman, stresses the ill-defined "right to development" and "right to industrialise" and promises that Amnesty will now target multinational companies, banks and the IMF. It is hard to believe that this curious change of direction properly reflects the beliefs of the 1,100,000 members whom he represents.

Talk of the "right to development" will also be music to the ears of rulers who believe that a nation's poverty excuses censorship, arbitrary arrest and judicial murder. Mr Sané is edging Amnesty dangerously close to the Third World aggro of the 1970s which so contaminated the work of Unesco. Amnesty's drift from its true agenda would not matter so greatly if the UN's monitoring of human rights violations were more robust. As it is, Amnesty has a bigger staff and budget than the UN human rights centre in Geneva; it remains the most important independent voice in the politics of human rights. If Mr Sané has his way, there is a risk that people will stop listening.

COSTS AND BENEFITS

The social security debate must extend beyond numbers

The cost of social security benefits has risen steadily since the foundation of the welfare state whichever party has been in power. Costs will continue to rise with the same cold disregard for politics unless the British people will otherwise. Serious policy changes require changed attitudes and serious discussion of long-term priorities and effects — a process to which the social security secretary, Peter Lilley, made a useful contribution yesterday.

The immediate aim of his report was to destroy two myths, the first that spending on social services has been cut under Conservative governments, the second that increased expenditure is caused mainly by high unemployment. Since 1978/79, he showed, expenditure has risen at an average of 3.7 per cent per year in real terms. Last year, social security benefits came to just over £74 billion: 30.8 per cent of general government expenditure and 12.3 per cent of Britain's Gross Domestic Product. Even excluding the unemployed, these outlays are expected to increase at an underlying rate of 3.3 per cent per year to the end of the century.

This bill will continue to rise even if unemployment is halved — an assessment which Labour must counter if it is to continue arguing that lower unemployment will largely solve the problem. No responsible political party could view these figures without alarm. Unchecked, they imply soaring personal taxation, or shrinking spending on other areas of government — or both.

The report offers a clear picture of which kinds of benefit have grown the most. The greatest increases have been in invalidity benefit — on which spending has doubled in real terms in a decade and is projected to increase by another 50 per cent by 2000 — housing benefit and income support to lone parents. These are the areas where Mr Lilley, and other like-minded ministers such as John Redwood, have rightly attempted to initiate discussion of radical reforms.

On their agenda is not only "means-testing" but defining need more strictly or placing other conditions on benefits. For example, the healthy long-term unemployed could be required to undergo retraining — a deterrent to those who are not in genuine need. One already successful reform has been the encouragement of private pension provision: 75 per cent of those eligible to opt out of the state pension scheme have done so.

A combination of increased private provision and greater focusing of benefits could provide a welfare state which was both affordable and effective. But political progress has been patchy. Any proposal, once mooted, seems to be withdrawn as soon as it comes under fire. The government is reluctant to consider the potential support among voters for targeting payments to those in real need. It must press and extend the debate. Benefits that reach those who do not need them are merely wasteful. They do not cheat merely the taxpayer; they cheat and corrode recipients too.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Defence cuts: political wisdom or a risk to security?

From General Sir Hugh Beach

Sir, Three cheers for a flagon of common sense from your columnist, Simon Jenkins, in today's issue, on "Defending Our Future". He demolishes two criticisms which are mindlessly and almost universally levelled against the Ministry of Defence.

The first is that all reductions in forward defence plans are "Treasury-led", as though it were a failing to put cash constraints at the centre of planning when in fact it is the necessary condition of all public and — come to that — private projects in the real world.

The second is that rejigging of defence plans are somehow haphazard, piecemeal and intellectually vacuous if they are not formally labelled "Defence Review". In fact, there is no merit whatever in the latter, save as a way of dramatising frequently unpleasant decisions.

The process of rebalancing resources, commitments and foreign policy objectives is continuous, inescapable and something which Whitehall does rather well. It would be interesting to hear from the critics which of the decisions taken since the last defence review proper (about 15 years ago) they think has been wrong.

"Defending Our Future" is, as Simon Jenkins says, a "proper review". The only criticism lying against it is that it does not go far enough. The correct size of the Trident fleet is not three but zero. Like the four diesel submarines now cancelled, the four Trident boats now represent sunk capital costs, but there are running costs for decades ahead available for saving. The contingency for which the Trident fleet was ordered is as defunct as the Murnansk fleet around Iceland.

A convincing case has never been made, in the post-Cold War context, for the new Euro-fighter. And the army has got off scot-free so far as its order of battle is concerned. As the garrisons in Germany ebb still further (for want of any rational justification), so it will prove increasingly

impossible to defend the present number of armoured regiments, and even more so to find sites in Britain where there is room to house and train them.

If the Armoured Corps is well advised it will put in an early bid to take over the manning of the army's helicopters.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH BEACH
The Farmers Club,
3 Whitehall Court, SW1,
July 7.

From the Editor of
Jane's Fighting Ships

Sir, According to the foreign secretary the world is going to stay a dangerous place. "Nobody knows who will be running Russia in ten years' time."

According to the defence secretary, the Upholder class submarines were designed primarily to counter the Russian submarine threat, which has gone. These new diesel submarines are therefore no longer necessary and are to be paid off or sold.

Since the Berlin Wall came down, Russia has launched 27 new submarines, including six last year. The total for this year is expected to include five more.

Assuming the Foreign Office talks to the Ministry of Defence, it is difficult to take seriously the claim that the latest defence cuts are not Treasury-driven. This is political short-termism putting at risk our long-term security.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SHARPE
Editor, Jane's Fighting Ships,
Foundry House,
Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire.

From Air Commodore Alastair Mackie

Sir, Your leader, "Flexible defence" (July 5), suggests that "things change" is the best overall argument for Mr Rifkin's review of defence policy. In some respects he recognises that they do. Britain's residual minor

world status as an offshore island of Europe is at last being reflected in the nature of her defence structure. Continuing the huge increase in the nuclear deterrent force is a glaring exception. The hoary process of inventing a strategic excuse for a weapon justifiable only as a preserver of illusions of grandeur persists.

Pretexting that Britain faces a threat of nuclear attack from a crazed Russian government or a dictator bent on taking us over would be an expensive but otherwise harmless folly if it did not generate just the risks against which it purports to protect us.

The uselessness of nuclear weapons as deterrents to war has become so obvious that there is widespread inclination to test them no more and to end their manufacture. Britain alone, apparently determined to stay world-class in something, retains her role as nuclear proliferator-in-chief.

Let us hope that the glimpses of reality apparent in other aspects of defence policy will expose the unregeracy of its nuclear element.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR MACKIE
(Vice-President),
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
162 Holloway Road, N7,
July 6.

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm,
RN (ret)

Sir, Your leading article of July 6 ended by expressing the most dangerous and forlorn hope in the defence arena, "that forces can, if necessary, be built up again should the need arise".

It is almost a cliché in defence planning that a threat can arise far more quickly than it takes to build or rebuild the capability needed to deter or counter it. It is against this truth that the effects of the latest defence cuts must be judged.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KIMM
69 New Brighton Road,
Ensworth, Hampshire,
July 6.

City checkpoints

From Mr Edwin Richards

Sir, The implementation of checkpoints in the City of London (report, July 5) has handed the terrorists a far greater propaganda victory than their having been able to explode devices in the City in the first place.

The City may be marginally safer, at the cost of delays to traffic and increased intrusion by the police in the activities of citizens, but the risk to prestige targets in London has merely shifted its focal point nearer to the West End. It seems unlikely anyway that the new security arrangements will prevent the terrorists from planting another "spectacular" within the cordon, and how much greater will be the terrorist victory if they beat the increased security?

The cost of repairs to property from terrorist action should be fully underwritten by the government as the price necessary to prevent the terrorists from winning and we, the taxpayers, should be happy to pay this price.

Yours faithfully,
EDWIN RICHARDS,
12 Camden Hill Gardens, W8,
July 6.

From Mr Christopher Road

Sir, If it is felt necessary to restrict access to the City on security grounds there is surely a more physically attractive solution than the one introduced last weekend.

Traffic and pollution levels in the City are high and likely to rise if unchecked.

The answer, I believe, is to pedestrianise parts of the City and install barriers of plants and trees. These measures could be at least as effective as the present road blocks in denying access to terrorists and would help to make the City a cleaner, quieter, healthier and more attractive place in which to work.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER ROAD,
10 Norwich Street, EC4,
July 6.

Monumental thought

From Mr T. S. Parr

Sir, In Kensington Gardens the Albert Memorial remains unrestored for lack of funds; at the other end of South Carriage Drive another monument has been erected in honour of another much loved consort (report and photographs, July 7).

Why could the money that has been spent on the Queen Mother's gates not have gone towards restoring the Albert Memorial?

Forgetting whether one likes the new gates or not, they are surely inappropriate to sit happily beside the Decimus Burton Screen and Apsley House. To my mind they would be more appropriate in a Bolshoi production of *Sleeping Beauty*.

Yours faithfully,
T. S. PARR,
c/o 39 Brook Street, W1,
July 7.

Business letters, page 25

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

N Ireland riots

From Mr David Trimble, MP for Upper Bann (Ulster Unionist)

Sir, Your Ireland correspondent reports (July 5) the worst rioting for several years to "have been entirely in Loyalist areas", but this is not quite right.

In addition to disturbances in Loyalist areas of Belfast and Bangor, which I deplore, there were problems in two towns in my constituency.

In Lurgan rival gangs clashed on the outskirts of a predominantly Protestant estate which has been under pressure from Roman Catholic extremists for many years.

In Portadown Catholic youths at-

tacked the police and set fire to an empty factory.

This latter action is most curious. The factory is being acquired, with the assistance of the International Fund for Ireland, by a "cross-community" group to promote local employment. The inverted commas are used because the factory is within a Catholic area and any employment created will go overwhelmingly to that section of the community, yet today it is in ruins.

Sincerely,
DAVID TRIMBLE,
Ulster Unionist Council,
3 Glegall Street, Belfast,
July 5.

Major's libel costs

From Mr C. M. V. Townsend

Sir, The settlement has been announced of one of the libel actions brought by the prime minister and the lady concerned against a periodical (report, July 7).

The prime minister has stated that the legal fees payable by the magazine in consequence of this settlement will be up to £250,000. He made clear in the statement that he issued in Tokyo that this was a substantial factor in assessment of the settlement.

I must declare a personal interest in the adequacy of legal fees and I entirely accept that the figure quoted

will be proper in every way. I do, however, find it difficult to understand why it could not have been possible for what appears to be a simple issue (with little documentation and no trial) to be disposed of for a sum much more consumer-friendly.

I am a rather elderly solicitor. Perhaps others who are more contemporary can explain why the sort of figure mentioned is necessary in the achieving of the protection of the law in England.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. V. TOWNSEND,
Townsend & Co (solicitors),
62 New Cavendish Street, W1.

Treasure on trial

From the President of the Council for British Archaeology

Sir, The second inquest on a Bronze Age gold torc found by Mr Graham Chaddock near Warrminster, Wiltshire (report, June 24), highlights once again the unsatisfactory state of the antiquities law in England and Wales.

For the second time, a coroner and jury have seriously deliberated the state of mind of the original owner of the torc, who died more than 3,000 years ago, to establish whether or not he (or she) intended to recover it. In some Gilbertian way they have decided that he or she did, that he or she, or his or her heirs, can no longer be found and, therefore, that the torc is the property of the Crown.

They might just as easily have decided that he or she did not — in which case the torc would have been returned to Mr Chaddock.

Atrocity in Kashmir

From Lord Awebury

Sir, On June 26, Mr Muhammad Sultan Bhatt, his three sons, his pregnant daughter-in-law and her sister were burnt alive when their home in the village of Dayalgam, Anantnag, in Kashmir was torched by the Indian security forces. The soldiers who committed this atrocity were members of the Border Security Force (BSF) billeted at the Guljar Hostel, Khannabal, Anantnag.

The Indian government has claimed that wrongdoers in the security forces have been charged and convicted. We have asked the foreign secretary and other FCO ministers repeatedly to obtain details of these cases, but no information has been given by India.

The Indian armed forces operate in Kashmir in a climate of impunity, raping, killing, torturing and destroy-

ing property without fear of punishment. Yet they claim to be upholding the rule of law, and they escape effective criticism by the international community, because of India's strong network of political and commercial relationships.

The murderers of Mr Bhatt and his family could be identified, since the commanding officer of the BSF unit at Khannabal must know which of his men were ordered to patrol the village of Dayalgam on June 26.

If no charges are preferred, it will confirm yet again that the reign of terror in Indian-occupied Kashmir is not a question of mere indiscipline, but a deliberate policy.

Yours faithfully,
F. V. ADDYMAN,
President,
Council for British Archaeology,
Bowes Morrell House,
111 Walmgate, York.

On approval

From Mr Francis Heald

Sir, The word "feisty" in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* is characterised as slang, prefixed "(- chiefly US) and defined as "aggressive, exuberant; touchy". As one might expect of an American slang word, these three definitions are mutually incompatible and the word is therefore incapable of conveying any meaning which can be generally understood.

Since a Mr Peter Stothard (claiming in a footnote to be you yourself, Sir, which is clearly impossible since your traditional anonymity is preserved inviolate by the mists of Olympus) gave it the seal of your personal approval by using it in a recent book review, perhaps you would be good enough to provide us all with a definition *ex cathedra editoriale* and thereby promote the word to respectability.

Your ever obedient servant,
FRANCIS HEALD,
135 Orchard Street,
Chichester, West Sussex,
July 4.

Democracy in student unions

From Mr Kevin Shinkwin

Sir, John Patten's announcement last week of reforms giving students the right to opt in to their student unions is a victory for choice and for democracy. Students across the country will welcome the right to decide for themselves whether or not to join their local student union.

The demise of the student union closed shop might have been far too slow and its overhaul long overdue, but the education secretary's inspired and bold decision is nonetheless very good news. Students have suffered years of intimidation, repression and the denial of free speech at the hands of student union cliques. At last the supposedly impregnable bastion of political correctness, profligacy and wide-scale abuse of taxpayers' money has been stormed.

The customary claim of the National Union of Students, recently repeated, to consumer body status is ludicrous and very sad. The capacity both of the NUS and of student unions for self-delusion is infinite. But students will not fall for this line. By denying students the right to choose positively whether or not to join what are fundamentally political movements, student unions are running away from the very people they claim to represent.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN SHINKWIN
(Deputy national student director, 1992-3),
Conservative Collegiate Forum,
32 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1,
July 7.

From Mr Jamie Mitchell

Sir, In recognition of the fact that student union reform is an issue on which students and politicians should work together, the Department for Education has kindly set aside a consultative period for its recent proposals. However, underneath this sheep-like co-operation is a wolf conveniently dressed to get its own way.

John Patten's announcement came on July 1 and responses to the department's consultation notes must be received by October 1. The proposals are ostensibly to increase student union democracy, yet, ironically, the consultative period is timed to coincide exactly with the summer vacation.

Student union leaders cannot consult other students, let alone obtain a democratic mandate to respond one way or another. The government's timing has turned "consultation" into a farce, severely countering the whole essence of the proposed reforms.

Yours faithfully,
JAMIE MITCHELL
(President, Junior Common Room),
Brasenose College, Oxford,
July 7.

Missions and targets

From Mr R. E. W. Ridley

Sir, I read with despair your news of a Stone Age tribe in Papua New Guinea "already... replacing their ancient beliefs with Christianity and their nakedness with Western clothing" ("Baptists target Stone Age tribe", early editions, June 26).

Perhaps the Telefilm Baptist Mission, and others like them, would be better to turn their attentions to the "developed" West — Bosnia might be a start.

Yours wearily,
R. E. W. RIDLEY,
The Old Vicarage, Dinnington,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
June 27.

Cats' cradle?

From Ms Hilary Sternberg

Sir, I quite agree with Professor Ricks of Boston University (report, July 7) that the unpublished early poems of T. S. Eliot should not be dismissed as "juvenile" (sic). Old Possum may have a Latin ring to it, but his *Book of Practical Cats* wasn't penned by an old Roman.

Yours etc,
HILARY STERNBERG,
31 Hopefield Avenue, NW6,
July 7.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 8: His Excellency Mr. Khalid A.S. Al-Duwaisan was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letter of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the State of Kuwait to the Court of St. James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr. Jassim Al-Mubarak (Counsellor), Mr. Nasir Al-Murayyan (Second Secretary), Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Olaibi (Second Secretary), Mr. Dharir Al-Najran (Third Secretary), Mr. Fawaz Al-Sabah (Third Secretary), Mr. Faisal Al-Sabah (Attache), Mr. Sameh Hayat (Attache) and Mr. Mohamed Al-Shabo (Attache).

Mrs. Dalal Al-Duwaisan was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir David Gilmour (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr. Christian Adams (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Bangkok) and Mr. Adams were received by the Queen.

Mr. Brian Sparrow (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Zagreb) and Mrs. Sparrow were received by Her Majesty.

The Queen this afternoon opened a Summer Ball held at the Berkeley Hotel, London SW1, to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Dyslexia Institute and the Berkeley Hotel. Mrs. Charles Vyvyan was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness was represented by Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick at the Memorial Service for Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Martin Gilliat, Private Secretary and Equerry to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, which was held in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London WC2, today.

The Duke of Edinburgh today presented The Prince Philip Prize for the Designer of the Year and gave a Luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

The Queen was represented by the Earl of Arundel (Lord Chamberlain) at the Memorial Service for Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Martin Gilliat (Private Secretary and Equerry to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother), which was held in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London WC2, today.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Sir Brian McGrath.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr. Gerald Ward.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Captain Neil Blair RN.

The Princess Royal was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer.

The Princess Royal, Patron, the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, today attended a Special Graduation of Veterinary Students and received an Honorary Degree at the University of Edinburgh, McEwan Hall, Brunton Square, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord

Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mr. Norman Irons, the Rt Hon. the Lord Provost). Her Royal Highness afterwards attended a Luncheon at the University of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge.

The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the Equine Intensive Care Unit, University of Edinburgh, Veterinary Field Station, Easter Bush. Mrs. David Bovey was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Victim Support, later attended the Victim Support 1993 National Conference, University of Warwick, Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for West Midlands (the Earl of Aylesford).

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The Duke of Kent, President, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this morning visited Clough Head Lifeboat Station, Clough Head, County Lough and Skerries Lifeboat Station, County Dublin.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Howth Lifeboat Station, Dublin, Irish Republic.

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Memorial services

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Martin Gilliat

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The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the Equine Intensive Care Unit, University of Edinburgh, Veterinary Field Station, Easter Bush. Mrs. David Bovey was in attendance.

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Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit the Army Rifle Association's meeting at Biskley at 11.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit The Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Suffolk, at 10.00; will visit the Royal Harwich Yacht Club, Woodhouse, at 10.55; and will attend a luncheon given by the Ipswich Port Authority at the Old Custom House at 12.40.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will unveil the Statue of Britain memorial at Dover at 3.10.

The Duke of Kent, as Chancellor of Surrey University, will preside at the conferment of degrees ceremony in Guildford Cathedral at 10.10; and will attend the Metropolitan Police horse show and tournament at the Mounted Training Establishment at Imber Court, East Molesey, at 3.30.

The Duchess of Kent will visit the Northamptonshire General Hospital, at Cliftonville, Northampton, at 11.25; will attend a service at the church of All Saints, Northampton, at 12.10; and, as Patron of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, will open the new extension to the in-patient unit at Cynthia Spencer House, Mansfield Hospital, Kettering Road, at 2.45.

Birthdays today
The King of Morocco celebrates his birthday today.

Viccount Ashurst, 88; Mr. Peter Balfour, former chairman, Charterhouse, 72; Sir Philip Bridges, former Chief Justice of the Gambia, 71; Dame Barbara Cartland, authoress, 92; Mr. Ben De Haan, jockey, 34; Mr. Richard Donat, watercolourist, 63; Sir George Edwards, OM, former chairman, BAC, 85; the Earl of Erne, 56.

Mr. Eric Halliday, former rector, Grey College, Durham University, 67; Sir Edward Heath, KG, MP, 77; Mr. David Hooley, actor, 57; Dame Jill Knight, MP, 66; Lord Lovat, 82; Lord St Oswald, 74; Lord Marshall Sir John Sutton, 61; Mr. Justice Tucker, 63; General J.H. Wahlström, former international footballer, 84; Sir David Wilson, actor, 58; Mr. Richard Wilson, actor, 57.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Ann Radcliffe, novelist, London, 1764; Matthew Gregory Lewis (Mont Lewis), Gothic novelist, watercolourist, 63; Sir George Edwards, OM, former chairman, BAC, 85; the Earl of Erne, 56.

Mr. Eric Halliday, former rector, Grey College, Durham University, 67; Sir Edward Heath, KG, MP, 77; Mr. David Hooley, actor, 57; Dame Jill Knight, MP, 66; Lord Lovat, 82; Lord St Oswald, 74; Lord Marshall Sir John Sutton, 61; Mr. Justice Tucker, 63; General J.H. Wahlström, former international footballer, 84; Sir David Wilson, actor, 58; Mr. Richard Wilson, actor, 57.

Deaths
On July 8: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 7: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 6: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 5: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 4: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 3: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 2: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 1: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 30: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 29: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 28: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 27: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 26: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 25: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 24: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 23: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 22: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 21: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

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On July 19: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 18: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

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On July 15: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 14: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 13: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 12: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

On July 11: Mrs. Mary Ann (née) Smith, 84, of 12, St. John's Road, London, died of cancer.

Luncheons

The Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence will host a luncheon for the Defence Staff, which will be held at Whitehall in honour of Admiral J.R.M. Lamond, Chief of the Defence Staff, at 1.30.

The British Naval Equipment Association will host a luncheon for the Association, which will be held at the Royal Naval School, Portsmouth, at 1.30.

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Dinners

Defence and Security Forum

The Defence and Security Forum will host a dinner for the Defence Staff, which will be held at Whitehall in honour of Admiral J.R.M. Lamond, Chief of the Defence Staff, at 7.30.

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CHARLES TOWNSEND

INFOTECH 27, 28

The Roman emperor's new clothes

ARTS 29-31

Gloria Estefan sings for the folks back home

SPORT 35-40

Kim Barnett in search of gold for Derbyshire

WASTED-COSTS
ORDERS AGAINST
LAWYERS

Page 34

THE TIMES

2

FRIDAY JULY 9 1993

Group of Seven urges Japan to stimulate economy

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
IN TOKYO

THE Group of Seven summit will today adopt an economic declaration calling on Japan to stimulate its economy, both through monetary and fiscal policy, but the declaration, while solemn in its promise to fight unemployment and press for economic growth, offers hardly any new policy initiatives for Europe and America.

The declaration notes: "Japan will, as necessary, implement fiscal and monetary measures to ensure strong domestic demand-led growth, keeping in mind the need for medium-term fiscal prudence." Despite the caveats, this amounted to the strongest promise of action.

Europe is urged to cut its budget deficits. "Europe is firmly committed as a matter of overriding importance to implementing appropriate budgetary and other measures in order to ensure that the conditions for reduction in interest rates are created." A draft version of the document had contained the expression "rapid reduction", but the word "rapid" was omitted in the final declaration, underlining Germany's reluctance to allow even the slightest signals that it may bow to international pressure to cut interest rates beyond what the Bundesbank agreed to so far.

The world leaders professed themselves "concerned about insufficient growth and inadequate job creation in our economies". In the economic declaration, world leaders greeted the market access deal and goods and service, which was reached on Wednesday, as "a great step to lead the way to an early resumption of multilateral negotiations on all dossiers and the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations. These efforts must be matched by comparable market opening measures by other major producers and exporters."

The leaders also decided that in future the summit would be less ceremonial and more issue-oriented and that there would be "greater informality, shorter and more focused communiqués and a reduction in documentation".

Clinton exuberant, page 13
Wall Street, page 24
Illusion of health, page 25

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS
TODAY

EURO DISMAL

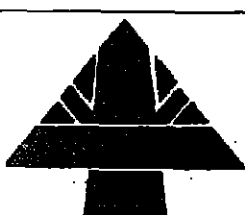


Shares in Euro Disneyland plummeted after the company made a disastrous trading statement. Page 23, Tempus 25

CASH FLOW

Private sector finance is to be introduced to the Scottish water industry, which is being reorganised. Page 23

REFUELING



British Aerospace has unveiled a £1.4 billion refinancing facility, and quashed rumours of a Rover sale. Page 23, Tempus 25

THE POUND
US \$ 1.4910 (-0.007%)
German mark 2.5463 (-0.0041)
Exchange index 80.8 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET
FT-SE 100 2845.9 (-2.4)
Dow Jones 3500.30 (+24.63)
Nikkei Ave. 19688.67 (-32.00)

INTEREST RATES
London Bank Base 6%
3-month interbank 6.57%
US Federal Funds 3.1/4%
3-month Treas. Bils. 3.02-3.01%
Long Bond 6.69%

CURRENCIES
New York: London £1.4950
S\$ 1.4955
DM 1.7039
S\$W 1.5155
S\$Fr 5.7900
S\$Yen 108.60
S\$DR 1.0772
London Foreign market close

GOLD
London Fixing (5)
AM 395.40 PM 395.20
Close 394.80-395.10
New York
Comex 395.75-396.25

RETAIL PRICES
RPI 141.1 May (1.3%)
* Denotes midday trading price

British Coal revamp cuts 3,000 jobs

By GEORGE SIVELL
CITY EDITOR

BRITISH Coal is to cut 3,000 white-collar jobs in a huge restructuring intended to cope with the rundown of the industry after the last reorganisation in 1991.

In addition, the existing five British Coal operating groups — North East, Selby, South Yorkshire, Nottingham and Wales — will be cut to two, Northern and Midlands. The corporation wants the main planks of the reorganisation in place by September-October, and to complete the process by March-April next year.

The government is expected to publish a White Paper in the autumn that will pave the way for British Coal's privatisation. Despite the impact of the reorganisation, it appears unlikely that this will be by direct flotation.

Neil Clarke, British Coal's chairman, said: "Against a backdrop of fighting vigorously for additional sales, a restructuring of our management and clerical services is vital to minimise costs and give our on-going collieries the best opportunity of surviving."

British Coal said it would do everything possible to achieve the job losses by voluntary means.

Mr Clarke added: "I doubt whether any business in Britain has been subject to such an intense, public scrutiny over such a short period. Everyone in British Coal has shown great professionalism and fortitude throughout this very difficult time. Productivity levels have continued to rise. Our safety record is second to none and costs have been driven down in all parts of the organisation."

In spite of all these improvements, the hard reality facing us is that we now have just 30 producing collieries and it is now apparent that a restructuring of the organisation is necessary to focus accountability and responsibility more closely, to enable further cost reductions to be made, and to maximise the efficiency of our organisational structure."

A white paper on privatising British Coal is due in the autumn. Meanwhile the corporation has to cut its costs in line with the recent fall in demand for coal

ham, will oversee the collieries which have ceased production but which are to be kept on care and maintenance while they are being offered for leasing and for licence to private operators.

Opencast management will continue to be separate from deep mining but the opencast regions are to be reduced from five to four, with Central West and Central North merging.

Restructuring will also hit marketing to domestic and industrial users, finance, information technology and other white collar operations. Many British Coal services will be contracted out, which could mean some of the 3,000 jobs will be saved.

British Coal has offered five more pits at which production has ended to private companies. This brings to 19 the number of collieries not wanted by British Coal which have been offered for lease or licence.

The corporation said this "substantially completed" its plan to offload surplus mines. Up to 30 enquiries a week have been registered for pits which British Coal announced last October had no market, the corporation said.

The latest collieries to be offered are Shirebrook, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire; Taft Merthyr in Mid Glamorgan; Kersley, near Coventry, West Midlands; Parkside, at Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside; and Sharncliffe, at Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

British Coal said it was too early to say whether interest shown in lease and licence would develop into full tender submissions. It added that it would consider lease and licence of other collieries if and when they became surplus to requirements.

Where the schools divide is over the outlook. The consensus view still looks for a further, shallower cycle, but the Midlands-Lombard Street view sees the speculative boom of the late 1980s as inflation's last throw in the present long cycle, the prelude to a sea change. This can be seen close-up in the current Midland Bank wage forecast, which sees UK settlements not reviving, but subsiding further to little over 2 per cent in 1994 — the typical US wage pattern of the last decade and more. A broad explanation is offered by Brian Reading of Lombard Street Research: the diffusion of technology to low-wage countries has now put a competitive cap on developed world inflation.

Now this view has implications far beyond inflation forecasts. Take unemployment: on the long-cycle view, the structural rise in unemployment now troubling all developed countries is the result of a slow adaptation to the new competitive situation. If so, Tokyo could make it much worse, since freer trade would accelerate changes which we are already unable to handle. Reading already foresees a replay of the 1880s, when output grew while prices fell, and unemployment remained obstinately high. Tokyo could throw us back another century, to Gray's abandoned village. You need not be a humanitarian to find this worrying: the fiscal implications are nightmarish. Is Tokyo good news? It depends on the point of view.

There are also profit implications, though they are less forbidding. Low-cost competition may benefit the multi-nationals who partly sponsor it, but it could, in the long view, suppress the "normal" cyclical revival of margins, which current equity levels more than fully discount. If you find the long view persuasive, beware of a market which finds itself long of Hope (Deferred).

been trading possible reasons ever since, but the cycle is a fact. The current one may have turned as long as 20 years ago, since each subsequent inflation wave has peaked lower than the last, just as unemployment has peaked higher. So much, indeed, is common ground: hence the general pessimism about jobs.

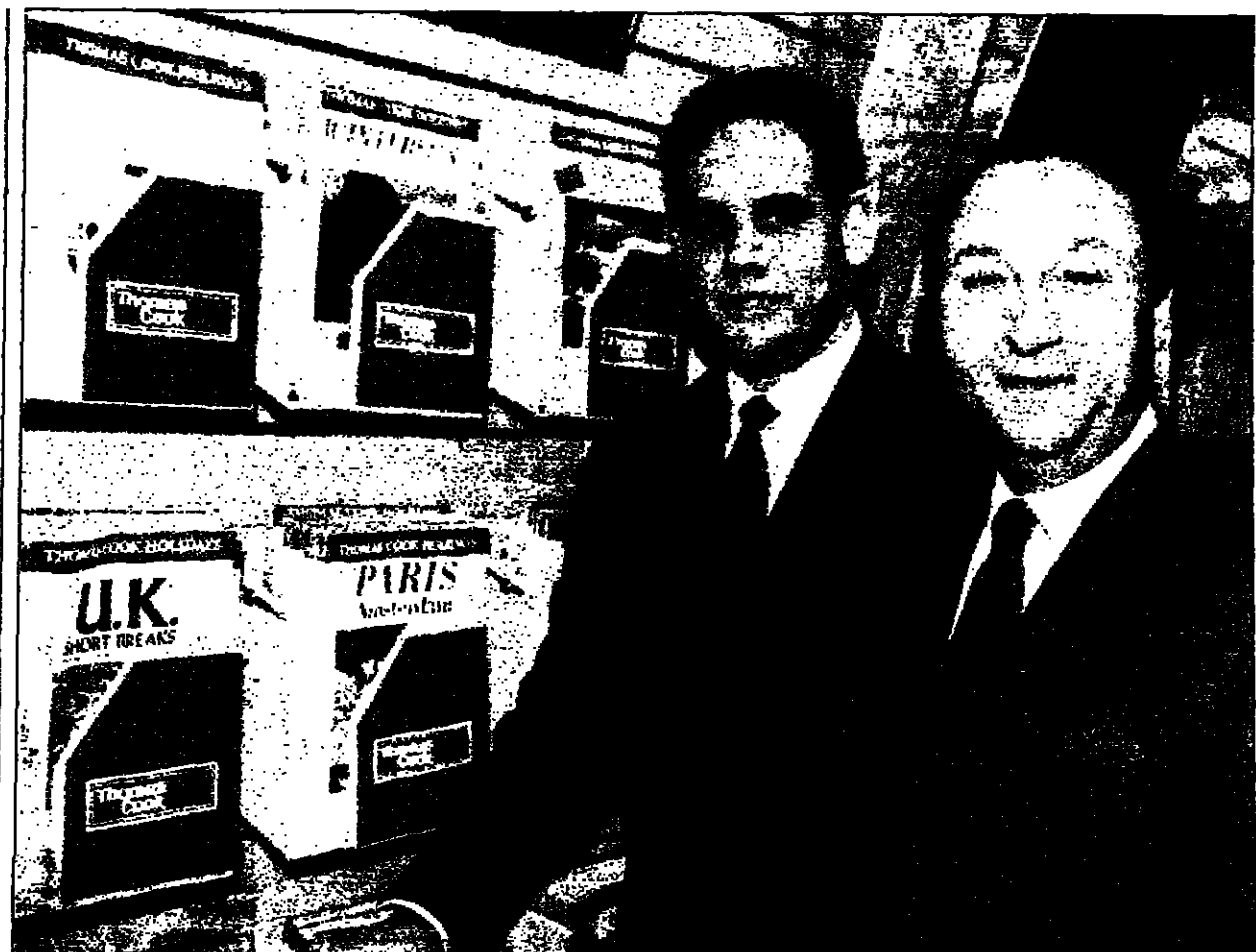
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Going places: Howard Klein, right, with Christopher Rodrigues of Thomas Cook, a non-executive director of Owners Abroad

Klein quits in Owners shake-up

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

A BOARDROOM shake-up was announced yesterday at Owners Abroad, the holiday operator, with Howard Klein stepping down as chairman and chief executive as the group revealed that profits this year are likely to be half what the City expects.

The shares dived immediately by a third to 66p from 98p, as the City also digested the unexpected departure of Roger Allard, group managing director, just four months after the duo fought off Airtours' £290 million takeover bid. That battle saw Airtours fail to gain control by just 7 per cent of necessary acceptances.

The Owners camp denied that institutional pressure had forced the pair to fall on their swords, the disappointing trading revelations coming so rapidly after upbeat statements during the takeover battle. Although Owners gave no profit forecast in its bid defence, it did say that current trading was strong and summer 1993 bookings were 14 per cent ahead. Mr Klein said:

"But I thought at the end of the day the buck stops with the chairman." Mr Klein said. He had adopted a high profile at the time of the Airtours battle and felt Owners might be damaged by his continuing association. Mr Allard, he said, had been responsible for

tour operations and had also felt "under the circumstances, as it was his area, he should do the honourable thing".

As part of the management changes, the roles of chairman and chief executive will be split, with the hunt now on for

Continued on page 23, col 2

Tokyo and the nightmare scenario

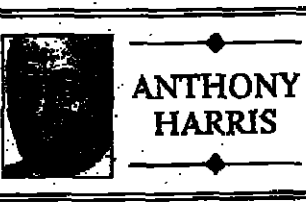
The markets have greeted the triumph of free trade in Tokyo with a gaping yawn. The deal was unexpected, so we are left with two possibilities (which are not mutually exclusive). One is that investors do not believe that the deal can survive exposure. This can hardly be the whole story, though, for Tokyo surely increased the likelihood of a deal. But who (apart from Mr Major) can calculate the likely consequences?

Despite the conventional view that freer trade will enable the whole world to pull itself up by its own bootstraps, and probably improve the weather too, some doubt is natural. Market sentiment is at the moment divided between two views of our present situation, which can for convenience be labelled the NantWest, or consensus view, and the Midlands-Lombard Street, or long cycle view. On the first, the conventional trade wisdom holds: freer trade should facilitate more growth with less inflation. So why no celebration? Because on the long-cycle view, freer trade could make our present problems with growth and employment still more intractable.

What view does your own pet guru hold? There is a simple litmus test: his inflation forecast. The consensus view is that this is just an ordinary downturn, though with nasty financial trimmings. The recession is suppressing inflation for the moment, but with recovery, it will reappear. NatWest, a moderate, sees inflation back to about 5 per cent next year, and base rates back to 7 per cent. Others, notably the National Institute, expect much worse, and the Bank of England remains braced to prevent it. A phrase from a fund manager's report on my desk gives the general flavour: "Gilt edged yields of less than 8.5 per cent can be justified only by a bullish expectation of 4 per cent inflation."

But apart from the question of whether the market now requires a bond return of 4.5 per cent over inflation, is 4 per cent a bullish inflation forecast? On the long-cycle view, it may be much too high. It is now some 70 years since Kondratieff first observed the existence of long-inflation cycles. He never adequately explained them, and experts have

been trading possible reasons ever since, but the cycle is a fact. The current one may have turned as long as 20 years ago, since each subsequent inflation wave has peaked lower than the last, just as unemployment has peaked higher. So much, indeed, is common ground: hence the general pessimism about jobs.



ANTHONY HARRIS

You should talk to ECU Terminvest PLC about Derivatives Investments

ECU TERMINVEST PLC

76.60%

FTSE 100 Index Options
Account profit since launch in
November 1991
Source: Audited ECU Terminvest
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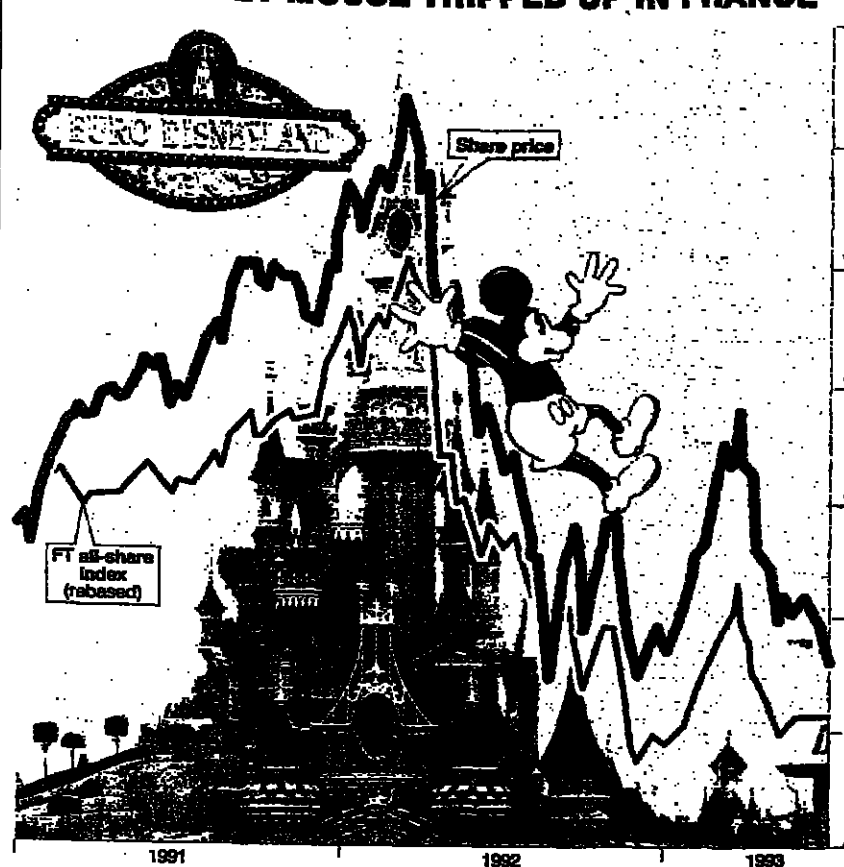
BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

The government's role in a partnership with industry, Mr Hunt said, was to create an economic climate to encourage enterprise; to do what others

BY JON ASHWORTH

[illegible]

HOW MICKEY MOUSE TRIPPED UP IN FRANCE



Disney takes white-knuckle ride as the cash fails to flow

Martin Waller examines the disastrous figures casting a shadow over France's Magic Kingdom

EURO Disneyland, the theme park east of Paris, has put on hold plans to build a Fr9 billion second site after a disastrous trading statement that concedes the park will fail to make a profit even in the potentially lucrative summer months of this year.

The shares plummeted 106p to 675p on news from the company that a loss of Fr500 million would be incurred in the third quarter to end-June. Analysts had been hoping for a break-even position.

Euro Disney also said it expected to lose money in the fourth quarter, covering the summer months when attendance is at its highest. The company is drawing up "a thorough review of its financial structure and its development strategy."

This is unlikely to be completed before next spring. Until then, the Walt Disney Company, which has a half share in the development, "has agreed to help finance the company's capital expansion and working capital requirement", a statement read.

Philippe Bourguignon, president-directeur general of Euro Disney, said the current economic environment did not allow the company to proceed with the development of a second theme park.

The third-quarter loss was blamed on lower than expected visitor spending on food and merchandise in the theme park and at the surrounding hotels.

Analysts are braced for losses in the summer of perhaps Fr200 million. The tourist industry in France has been badly hit by the recession and the fall in the value of sterling, the lire and the peseta which discouraged visitors. Plans for raising revenue from real estate development were scuppered by the depressed Paris real estate market.

The immediate effect has been a delay for an unspecified period in the building of the second theme park, initially due to open in 1995.

More significant is the decision to review the project's finances in a bid to make it profitable. Sources close to the company were stressing that any option would be considered, although they

backed off from speculation that the American joint owner might walk away from its equity, perhaps by selling it out. This would leave the corporation earning lucrative management fees from running the park and hotels as well as profits from the plethora of Disney merchandise.

A less radical solution would be a rights issue to wipe out debts that would take years to erode from pure cash flow. Other alternatives are sales of assets such as the hotels or a general restructuring of the package of debts incurred when the Fr3 billion park was built.

Euro Disney opened with a \$10 million party but ran straight into flak from its French hosts. One intellectual described it as a "cultural Chernobyl."

The first annual figures last November revealed a net loss of Fr188 million and a token dividend payment. The park has consistently failed to meet ambitious attendance forecasts drawn up before the recession reined in consumer spending. The Magic Kingdom is open and Mickey is at the door to greet visitors. But many have been too strapped for cash to enjoy the experience.

Tempus, page 25

Scottish water on private track

By PATRICIA TEHAN

PRIVATE sector investment is to be introduced to the Scottish water industry within three years, under plans announced in the House of Commons yesterday by Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary. However, after large-scale opposition north of the border, Mr Lang stopped short of proposing full privatisation and he also rejected an earlier proposal to franchise the industry.

Mr Lang told the Commons that he proposed setting up three public water authorities to own and operate current water and sewerage assets and arrange new investment to maximise private sector involvement.

The three authorities, which will be up and running by the start of April 1996, will control the day-to-day operations, as well as take on responsibility for financing investment in the water and sewerage services.

A Scottish Office spokeswoman said they will be encouraged to get into partnerships with the private sector, including private financing and managing of projects.

They face the daunting task of financing the £5 billion investment that the Scottish Office estimated last November is needed to modernise and maintain Scotland's water supply industry.

Under the proposals consumers' interests will be looked after on a new independent representative body.

The plans were revealed along with the government's plans to reorganise local government into 28 single-tier authorities.

A spokesman for Scottish Hydro-Electric, the recently privatised distribution and generation company, said the company is studying the plans. He said: "Such an arrangement might provide opportunities for a company like ours to become involved in individual projects. It is certainly something that we will look at."

Tom Clarke, Labour spokesman, acknowledged that the government seemed to have abandoned its "ridiculous proposals for outright privatisation" of water but demanded guarantees on disconnections. Mr Lang said three new water authorities would be much more efficient than having 28 water authorities, which would have led to "wide variations in cost".

He assured the Commons: "On disconnections, we have no plans for any change to the present arrangements."

Ray Michie, Liberal Democrat MP for Argyll and Bute, said the water plans were "the beginning of the road to privatisation", against overwhelming opposition, and she claimed the new boundary map was "a complete mess: no coherence, no stability. I reject it and I believe the people of Scotland will also."

Andrew Welsh, SNP MP for Angus E, protested: "This is a paving bill to steal Scotland's water through Tory quangoes. This is the end of the road for the Westminster system and you have no place left to hide."

BAe reshapes finances to aid joint ventures

By GEORGE STEVILL
City Editor

BRITISH Aerospace unveiled a £1.4 billion financing, one year before the old \$825 million package was due to expire.

The announcement declared that motor vehicles were considered a core business, despite speculation that Rover will be disposed of. That becomes possible after August 12, when the five-year standstill, built into the controversial sale agreement with the government, runs out.

Significant among British Aerospace businesses not listed as core activities was property. The company said property would be an important activity in the next few years but added that it was "not necessarily wedded to it for ever".

The new package, a five-year revolving credit facility, again required the permission of the government, because it involves foreign banks. But the refinancing reduces the net assets held by British Aerospace on the banks' insistence.

The refinancing of British Aerospace increases the scope for joint ventures by introducing banking covenants based on interest cover instead of net assets

greatly increasing scope for joint ventures of the sort recently under discussion with GEC.

GEC and British Aerospace revealed on Monday that talks on forming a defence contracting joint venture had been halted. Analysts continue to believe, however, that a joint venture between GEC's Marconi subsidiary and British Aerospace's defence division makes sense.

Analysts said the switch in the emphasis in banking covenants from net worth to interest cover and gearing ratios allowed John Cahill, British Aerospace's chairman since last year, much more flexibility with the balance sheet, notably on disposals or joint ventures.

The old covenant demanded net worth of £1.6 billion, against British Aerospace's

net worth of £1.8 billion. Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and NatWest arranged the facility and underwrote it along with Bayerische Landesbank Girozentrale, Citibank NA, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Royal Bank of Canada, the Bank of Nova Scotia and Sumitomo Bank. A host of so-called tertiary banks will also become involved in the facility but could not be named yesterday as they are still being lined up by the arranging banks.

A similar international syndicate was involved in the old \$825 million multi-option facility, which also needed British government approval. Along with GEC, British Aerospace is a prime contractor to the Ministry of Defence.

Richard Laphorne, the finance director who joined British Aerospace at the same

time as Mr Cahill, said: "This facility provides the capacity for British Aerospace to make an orderly transition from the previous covenant package to the new one. Greater flexibility has been the objective when determining the financial structure of the group. This latest move, coupled with the new legal structure announced two weeks ago, provides substantial progress to meeting that objective."

British Aerospace refused to disclose the new covenant levels. The shares rose 3p to 402p.

Tempus, page 25

Goldsmith to make \$464m from Newmont disposal

By COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

SIR James Goldsmith, the entrepreneur, stands to reap \$464.8 million gross from his latest sale of Newmont Mining shares as he unwinds his interest in America's largest gold mining company so as to invest directly in gold.

Sir James is selling 8.49 million Newmont shares at \$54.75 each, and fellow corporate partner RIT Capital Partners is selling 1.16 million Newmont shares, primarily to American investors.

Sir James and RIT moved into Newmont in October, 1990, when he acquired shares valued at \$1.11 billion from Hanson in exchange for his Cavenham forestry interests.

RIT simultaneously ac-

quired a 7 per cent stake in Newmont, whose shares were then priced at \$39. At that time, both parties said they would be eventual sellers.

Sir James off-loaded part of his Newmont holding in May, and on June 30 announced further disposal plans. After the current tranche of his holding has been sold, Sir James will hold 3.4 million Newmont shares. RIT retains 1 million Newmont shares.

Sir James said last month that it was "his intention to invest the majority of the proceeds of this [8.49 million shares] sale in physical gold" — words that have enlivened gold markets in recent days.

The gold price was, how-

ever, weaker yesterday after having flirted with the \$400 an ounce level on Wednesday. Gold's failure to breach \$400 knocked the steam out of the latest bull run in the metal and shares. Widespread profit taking left London gold \$2.25 weaker at \$393.75 an ounce, and most gold shares lower.

Silver eased, but platinum rose \$1.75 to \$408 an ounce.

Some dealers believe that if "healthy profit taking" continues then gold could retreat to \$380. Such a setback would be healthy, they suggest, and might be a pause for breath before a fresh assault on the \$400 level. They did, however, concede that the market was full of contradictions.

Walker misses deadline

By A CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE Walker, former head of the Brent Walker leisure group, saw his appeal against bankruptcy lapse without a hearing, after he missed a deadline to lodge £18,000 as security against his opponent's legal costs.

Mr Walker, 62, was told by the Court of Appeal last month that he could not proceed with his appeal unless he lodged the money with the court by 4pm yesterday. The deadline passed and his appeal was automatically dismissed.

Mr Walker, who owes £180 million and is facing theft charges involving £125 million, was made bankrupt after a judge ruled he was "not playing fair" with his creditors under a voluntary arrangement.

Yesterday, his solicitor said Mr Walker had been unable to pay the £18,000 because he did not have it. The "security for costs" order was obtained by Raymond Hocking, of Stoy Hayward, the accountant, who obtained the bankruptcy ruling against Mr Walker in April.

Klein steps down at Owners Abroad

Continued from page 21
two new people to fill the posts. A new chief executive of four operations will be appointed, and two extra independent directors are to come on the board.

Management, for the time being, will be devolved to a management committee chaired by Enrol Cossey.

The company suggested yesterday that the likely outcome for the year now, before the costs of defending the takeover bid, were likely to be "half the level of current market expectations". These have been running around £30-£35 million, indicating a figure in the year to end-October of about £15-£20 million before bid costs.

Mr Klein said the group's statements about trading during the takeover bid were scurrilously true.

The company said yesterday that since Easter it had been affected by severe price discounting, and changes in destination preferences away from its strong areas of Greece and Cyprus towards Spain, where it is not so dominant.

It said in the recession people were continuing to trade down whereas on aver-

age Owners holidays were £100 more expensive than rivals.

David Crossland, chairman of Airtours, said the statement by Owners did not represent current conditions in the holiday industry.

He said that an extra half million holidaymakers will have bought a package holiday this year, and he was optimistic about the outcome for the year as a whole.

Owners also yesterday declared an interim loss of £38.6 million against a £27.1 million loss last year.

First-half losses are a regular occurrence in an industry where the overwhelming amount of revenue is earned in the second half of the year. Meanwhile, sources at the City's takeover panel said it would consider the merits of investigating developments surrounding Owners Abroad since its successful bid defence.

However, it is understood that the panel's overriding concern will be that statements made were true at the time of the bid.

Tempus, page 25

Heron hits snag over restructuring

By JON ASHWORTH

GERALD Ronson has hit a fresh snag in his battle to secure a £1.4 billion restructuring for Heron International, the car dealership-to-property group.

An attempt to rubber-stamp the refinancing in the UK courts has been delayed for up to two weeks, after opposition from a Bermuda-based lawyer who has been locked in a legal dispute with Heron for two years. Simon Shane, a British-born solicitor who formerly advised Heron on its New York property interests, opposed an application to sanction the Heron scheme on Wednesday. Heron responded by accusing Mr Shane of attempting to delay proceedings to serve his own interests.

The restructuring, approved by a consortium of 82 banks in April after a year of negotiations, has been sanctioned by 15,000 Heron bondholders in the UK.

the Netherlands and the Dutch Antilles in the past few days. It also needs court approval in the three territories.

Five opposing creditors with claims totalling \$42 million and all linked to Mr Shane expressed "a number of serious and substantial objections" to the schemes of arrangement and the manner in which they have been formulated and presented to creditors. First Eastern Developments, Stratagem Development Corporation, and three others say they have not been provided with enough information to assess the deal's merits.

Richards Butler, the UK law firm acting for Mr Shane, is due to file affidavits in the courts today. Heron has a week in which to respond, and the matter is due to be considered again in the week of July 26. Heron hoped to complete the restructuring by the end of July.

Mr Shane, 40, is remembered in the

UK as the founder of Equitable Debenure and Assets Corporation, a company he sold to British Land for £20 million in 1985. He formerly acted as Heron's "scout" in New York, and advised on the Heron Tower 1 landmark property development on Manhattan's East Side.

The legal dispute between Heron and Mr Shane centres on Heron Tower 2, a second, unbuilt phase of the New York project. Heron, in a statement, said: "Heron has filed a claim against Mr Shane and one of his companies for alleged breach of duties and obligations, fraud, and negligent misrepresentation, and in the case of Mr Shane, for conversion of property. Mr Shane therefore has a vested interest in attempting to interfere with Heron's restructuring, thus forcing Heron into formal insolvency proceedings which would be to the detriment of creditors as a whole."

A good drop: Remy Cointreau, the French drinks group, said full-year profits fell 25.5 per cent but added all brands gained market share.

More Heron: Remy Cointreau, right, Remy's joint managing director, said: "We are very, very confident that we are going to grow our profits this year."

The group, where Patrick Bompont, left, is finance director, has a portfolio including Remy Martin cognac, Cointreau liqueur. Tough trading conditions were blamed for the drop in net profits to Fr202 million (Fr271 million) to end-March.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

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Notice of Approval of Transfer of Business
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 51(5)(a) of the above Act that the Secretary of State has approved a transfer of certain general business from Allianz Cornhill International Insurance plc to Cornhill Insurance plc.
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G7 summit offers illusion that the patient is healthy

Wolfgang Münchau, in Tokyo, feels prospects for completing the Uruguay Round are bright, but this will not help end the current economic slump

Trade talks are like arms negotiations, as the majority of deals are struck at the eleventh hour. So it happened at this week's Group of Seven economic summit in Tokyo, when trade negotiators reached a preliminary accord for a market access agreement.

One participant was convinced that the entire deal was a stitch-up from the outset. The negotiators of the Quad group — the European Community, the United States, Canada and Japan — were split over tariff reductions in many politically sensitive areas, such as textiles, electronics and alcohol. They could not have reached an agreement without a deadline and the hope that preceded the summit. Failure would have caused severe embarrassment, especially to the Japanese who, as summit hosts, had the most to lose in diplomatic terms.

The dispute over Japan's reluctance to eliminate import tariffs on whisky and brandy illustrates how far such negotiations can be. The Japanese were refusing to eliminate the tariff, which protects the domestic Japanese spirits industry. At crunchtime on Wednesday, an exasperated Japanese negotiator offered to cut the tariff 75 per cent, the maximum he was apparently allowed by his government. After other negotiators laughed him out of court, he went back to Kichii Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, and came back nodding. The zero tariff deal was struck, and the others too proved unusually flexible. The Americans appeared to cave in on textiles, though not quite in such dramatic terms as the Japanese, and allowed themselves a number of opt-outs. America, to protect its politically powerful domestic textile industry, currently imposes high tariffs on textiles, in some cases 30 per cent. It is a sector where the country is at its most protectionist. The Americans sold the deal as a victory for their own industry, a logic which escaped most observers in Tokyo. By then, the farce was in its penultimate act.

The final act came when Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, rushed to brief American journalists and presented outrageous economic extrapolations, which he claimed would result from a completed Uruguay Round, of which Wednesday's market access deal was, of course, only a small part. Mr Kantor said a successful trade round would create 1.4 million jobs in ten years, and a total of 2 million jobs in 13 years. Thinking globally, the net economic impact of the Uruguay Round worldwide will be \$5,400 billion in additional economic output, which, including multiplier effects, give or take a billion, is about the size of the American national debt. Mr Kantor's projections were based on a prediction by DRI, America's largest



Fact or fiction: will the tariff deal create the jobs Mickey Kantor, US trade representative, claims?

forecasting group. Hastier souls proclaimed that this deal would mark the end of the 1990s recession and herald a period of sustained economic growth.

This line of argument is flawed. Long-range economic forecasting is not dissimilar in its unreliability to long-range weather-forecasting. Both are hocus-pocus, because of the tendency of perfectly acceptable statistical deviations in input variables to multiply and grow into errors over time. As British forecasters have learnt to their peril, even short-term models can be hazardous, but when it comes to the long term, one is better off accepting the scepticism of the chaos mathematician than the confidence of the forecaster.

An example of the folly of medium-to-long range economic forecasting was the EC's Cecchini report in the mid-1980s, which sang the praises of the economic impact of the single European market. The report forecast a measurable rise in economic growth brought about by the abolition of internal trade barriers, but a cursory look at Europe's current economic reality would make the 1992 euphoria, which raged at the time, look rather naive.

Apart from the futility of long-range forecasting, a successful Uruguay Round would certainly not end the European recession, nor have much of an impact in speeding up the economic recovery in some of the Anglo-Saxon countries, which have just returned to a

slow level of economic growth. To illustrate this, let us recall the DRI employment impact forecast for America. The figures showed a net employment gain of 1.4 million in ten years and 2 million in 13 years. This suggests that 43 per cent of the total employment gain would occur between 2003 and 2006. If one dissected the ten years between now and 2003, one would find a similarly tail-ended distribution. Most of the jobs — and the same goes for the predicted economic growth — would not happen for a very long time.

What this shows is that if the Uruguay Round was capable of ending a recession, it is not going to be our present recession, or even the next one, but the one thereafter. Trade negotiators may have cheered the "largest tariff cut in history", according to Mr Kantor, but none of this would even begin to lift the world out of its current economic rot. The voodoo witchdoctors have done it again. The patient is sick and there is no cure. But in the long run, they lead us to believe, the patient is healthy.

Ultimately, the G7 summit must be a disappointment because it failed to deal with the real economic issues of our time. This is partly a reflection of the kind of governments that are still in power and also a reflection of the type of photo-opportunity-driven events into

which G7 summits have degenerated since their inauguration in 1975.

The euphoria in Tokyo over the market access agreement overshadowed the distinct lack of resolutions on current economic policy. Leaders cynically committed themselves only to the very policies that they were pursuing before the summit.

The only faint hope was offered by Mr Miyazawa, when he accepted, in principle, the need for a further fiscal and monetary stimulus of the Japanese economy beyond a \$120 billion fiscal expansion package announced in April. But in the leaked draft declaration, his commitment was adorned with qualifiers. Japan, it read, would only act in this spirit "as necessary" and "keeping in mind the need for medium-term fiscal prudence".

There was no initiative on exchange rates, partly because exchange-rate targeting has gone out of fashion. Nor was there much evidence that this had been a "summit for jobs". President Clinton unintentionally killed the idea when he proposed a special jobs summit at Camp David later this year.

Perhaps there is a simple reason why the G7 is becoming less and less of an economic summit. Economic policy coordination does not follow the telegraphic drama of trade and disarmament talks. It lacks the drama and the haggling. But, perhaps most important, it lacks the phony breakthroughs.

TEMPUS

Better to travel in hope

THE disaster story in Owners Abroad's interim figures is far removed from the picture the company painted at the time of Airtrous' hostile bid less than five months ago. The group's final defence document issued at the end of February said that summer bookings through travel agents were 11 per cent ahead and, overall, 9 per cent up on a like-for-like basis. This, Owners claimed, boosted its share of travel agent bookings from 14.2 per cent to 15.1 per cent.

Yesterday's statement on current trading told an entirely different story, giving a warning that based on bookings taken to date, full-year profits were likely to be half current market forecasts of about £30 million. The key question for shareholders, particularly those who supported Owners during the bid, is whether the trading situation can have

deteriorated so suddenly and so dramatically that the group could not have been aware of it in February. Perhaps the management were too busy firing off defence documents to notice that their company had taken a nosedive.

The travel industry is volatile, and it is not beyond the realms of belief that Owners could have experienced a sharp downturn since April. But the company's performance contrasts with Airtrous which announced a 23 per cent rise in summer bookings in its interim figures last month and is heading for a profit of more than £40 million this year.

With more than a third wiped off Owners' share price yesterday, its loyal shareholders must feel a twinge of regret. The easy-going statement from Airtrous by contrast suggests considerable relief that it was unwillingly rescued from this particular can of worms.

Greene King

SIMON Redman, chairman of Greene King, refuses to rule out another bid for Morland despite last summer's bruising battle. Neither the company's expansionary dreams nor the geographic logic behind such a merger have altered.

Like many of its peers, Greene King needs to acquire greater scale in retailing and greater efficiency in brewing to ensure its long-term independent survival. Although the pendulum is currently in the retailers' favour as the brewers fight each other on price, it may swing back the other way if a few brewing companies are squeezed out in the current battle.

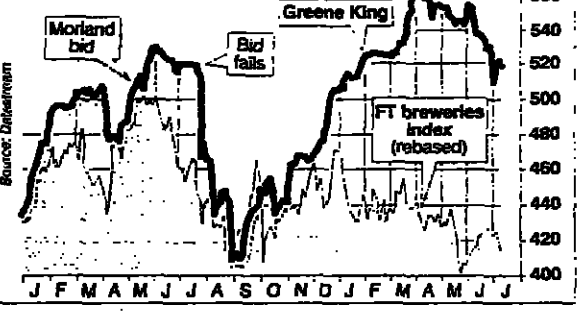
The key issue is whether Greene King is prepared to pay the astronomical price that modest regional brewers

now command. Greenalls paid a 38 per cent premium to net assets in its acquisition of Devenish last month, and that was an agreed bid. A similar premium would put Morland's shares above 634p, which is demanding, however compelling the operational argument.

Unless Mr Redman and

his team can secure an agreed bid at a more attractive price, Greene King will probably just sit on its stake. Morland's shares have risen nearly 20 per cent in the past year. When such returns can be generated from an unwanted equity investment, why bother troubling to manage a business?

ONCE AND FUTURE KING



Ladbroke

THE success of Ladbroke's £125 million bond issue has come just in time to save the share price from a further possible battering, since the City was getting nervous about the dividend.

At first glance, the 8.8 per cent interest rate on the ten-year bonds, 1.27 points higher than the equivalent gilt, does not look cheap compared with issues from bluer chip companies with coupons of less than 8 per cent. But the paper is cheaper than Fortis's recent issue, and the cash raised will repay more than half the group's £240 million bank debt, which comes due in the next two years.

The most encouraging aspect of the issue is that it proves that strong continental demand for sterling paper has given Ladbroke access to fresh finance. Six months ago, after sterling's devaluation, such an issue would have never stood a chance.

Ladbroke is a long way from prosperity. It is still saddled with debts of £1.34 billion, and the operating

cash flow from its hotels and the Texas DIY chain must be slim or negative. But the bond issue has reduced the threat of a credit squeeze. With the 11.5p dividend looking more secure, investors may be tempted by the 7.5 per cent yield.

pay for this freedom. The revolving credit loan will cost 0.63 per cent over base, compared with just 0.1 per cent over the London interbank rate the group paid on its old multi-option facility. Such manoeuvres show that the upheaval at BAE is not over.

BAE

THE tentative talks between GEC and British Aerospace about their defence businesses may have come to nothing this time, but BAE's new £1.4 billion syndicated loan shows that further joint ventures are still very much on its mind.

The switch from net asset value covenants to interest cover and gearing covenants is a further stage in the overhaul of group's financial structure and gives John Cahill greater freedom to create a cohesive industrial group out of what was an eclectic portfolio of privatised assets. The board can proceed with initiatives like a joint venture for the Jetstream aircraft business without fear of compromising its balance sheet or financing. BAE is prepared to

Euro Disney

THE ugly world of finance is beginning to invade the magic kingdom. Yesterday's statement from Euro Disney was an implicit admission that the park will never make a profit under its current financial structure, with Fr18 billion in debt supported by just Fr6 billion in equity.

Walt Disney, the park's 49 per cent shareholder, is unlikely to walk away from the project, since the closure or collapse of the park would be a mortal blow to the name and reputation of Mickey Mouse and his chums. Either the group has to inject equity and take control of the park or back a massive rights issue. The shares may be at an all-time low in Paris but they still look wildly overvalued.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Gotch gets Broadbent

JOHN Chalstrey last night looked certain to become the first barber-surgeon since Sir John Ayliffe in 1530 to secure the ancient office of alderman-justice of the City of London. Chalstrey, an outspoken critic of the government's plans to close St Bartholomew's hospital, thrilled liverymen with a fighting speech in the Common Hall two weeks ago. But, as the final votes were being tallied, it looked like Michael Broadbent, Christie's wine expert and candidate for lay sheriff, would be drowning his sorrows in a bottle or two. He was got at by Jeremy Gotch, a carman born in Shanghai to a banking family. Gotch, who speaks six languages including Cantonese, was the first and only British president of the European Federation of Railway Wagon Owners.

Scaling new peaks

CLOSE Brothers has never been afraid to scale new peaks. Last night, one of its executives departed for Greenland, where he will lead a four-man team of young British mountaineers in an attempt to cross the remote island by an unexplored 800km route well inside the Arctic Circle. Stephen Jones, 26, a director in the new issues division of Close Brothers Investment who last year climbed to the 20,320ft apex of Mount McKinley, will lead the expedition on foot, with nothing but skis and all the supplies they can carry. Each team member will tow a fibre-glass sledge from the east coast, up a glacier system 2,500 meters high, and on to Jakobsbavn on the west coast.

The crossing is expected to take 50 days. Craig Reader, managing director of Close Brothers Investment, which is sponsoring the trip, says: "We're delighted Stephen Jones and his colleagues have the bottle to undertake it and we look forward to welcoming Stephen back in September, assuming he makes it."

Third time lucky

NEVER one to shy away from a challenge, Max Bascombe is today en route to France for one of his legendary cross-Channel sailing trips. Bascombe, a Nomura equity salesman, who is joined by friends from BZW, Nomura and elsewhere, hopes to make the crossing from Lymington to St Malo in his 45ft yacht by daybreak, with a dinner stop in Guernsey. During a similar trip in 1989, he ran aground in the Solent twice, before grounding in thick fog off the Dorset coast. In a second excursion, in July 1991, he ran aground on a slipway in front of the Saint Salliac yacht club in full view of evening



"But surely he lost that years ago"

regulars enjoying their cocktails. We wish him luck for his third attempt, but nature may have other plans. Forecasters predict a Force eight gale.

Who is Smith?

JUST who is Bill Smith? That is what everyone at BZW wants to know, after the lengthy and highly controversial profile of Sir Michael Richardson in the latest Institutional Investor. The Smith New Court chairman talks about his career in corporate finance as well as hunting and masonry. In a passage about the world of secret handshakes, Sir Michael says that he is about to hand over his position as treasurer of a masonic lodge to his "son-in-law, Bill Smith at BZW". Sir Michael's son-in-law does indeed work at BZW, but his name is Anthony Wilson.

Chinese sideshow

JAMES Ross, Cable and Wireless chief executive, believes the Chinese are coming closer to opening their doors to Western telecommunications services. Hong Kong Telecom, in which C&W has 57 per cent, is just itching to get in. Ross, 53, a former BP executive, makes an analogy with the oil industry. He told Forbes magazine this week that the Chinese used to refuse foreigners entry into onshore oil exploration until they realised they did not have the technology or the foreign currency to do it themselves. "The transition (in Hong Kong) is over. This [sniping over the Chinese takeover] is just a little sideshow between some resentful Brits and some suspicious Chinese. It's all quite irrelevant."

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Receivership laws a licence to steal from small business creditors

From R. A. Green
Sir, During my 30 years of investing on the Stock Market several companies have been liquidated and my investments with them.

Six years ago I was made redundant so I set up as a sole trader of an engineering firm. In the five years of trading, five firms have gone into receivership owing me money, several thousands of pounds in total.

When I invest money in companies on the Stock Market I expect risk and in exchange favourable return on my investments when things go well.

When I sell components or services to a company, I expect the transaction to have minimal risk. I am, therefore, annoyed to be advised by the receivers that I am an unsecured non-preferential creditor, behind the Inland Revenue, Customs & Excise and the banks.

I cannot accept that the VAT which was raised when a company sells my products must be paid to the Customs &

Excise, as a preferential creditor, when the same products will not be paid for, because I am non-preferential. I also consider I rank equally with the Investment Bank since in handling over products or goods I have never intended the goods as an investment, but a short-term loan.

In short, I regard the current legislation as a licence to fraud and thievery with the smallest being made to suffer the most. Compulsory participation in a scheme such as BOC operates, where accounts are paid by direct debit, seems a good idea; this would save many hours of telephoning and haggling when dealing with major customers (PLCs) which take up to five months to pay. The unlimited companies, of course, pay without rancour at the end of the month.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. GREEN,
High View,
Lilly Hall Road,
Maltby,
Rotherham,
South Yorkshire.

Let directors donate from their own pockets

From Mr Ernest F. Crosswell
Sir, While allowing that Sir Nigel Mobbs has some justification for his criticisms of union donations to the Labour party (Letters page, July 2), I am unhappy with companies' donations to political parties.

Is it any more true to say that "shareholders have a say over their company's political donations" than union members have with union donations?

More serious is the fact that Sir Nigel's own company, Slough Estates, is in debt (£760 million in April 1993) — which raises the question of whether it would not be more ethical for him and his fellow

directors to make their regular donations to the local and national Conservative parties out of their own pockets instead of the pockets of shareholders.

Yours faithfully,
E. F. CROSSWELL,
78 Goldworthy Way,
Slough, Berkshire.

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Earnings per share	20.1	20.2	-1
Earnings per share before property disposals and exceptional item	Pence	Pence	
Dividend per share	35.4	36.1	-2
	35.6	34.8	+2
	12.3	11.6	+6



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INFOTECH

Chip, chop — jobs on the line

As industry looks for an end to recession, the buzz-word is re-engineering, says Matthew May

It is some years since information technology has been widely blamed for getting people the sack by replacing them. In reality, computers and high-tech communications were largely seen as boosts to productivity during years of economic growth, while few would claim that they have caused the recession.

According to some management gurus, however, the riskiest time for people, rather than machines, will be as the developed world comes out of recession.

Instead of rehiring those laid off in recession, they argue, companies will cope with increases in demand by making far better use of information technology (IT). Each year as technology becomes cheaper and more powerful, the salaries of those whose jobs could potentially be replaced become relatively more expensive.

If these predictions are true it could be good news for hard-pressed IT companies which are suffering both from customers cutting their budgets and improvements in technology that are consistently reducing prices and profit margins.

It is little surprise, then, that IT companies are warmly embracing a new wave of management theories that recommend a hefty increase in the use of computers and telecommunications as the way to cut costs and become more competitive.

Michael Hammer, for example, is a former professor of computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who has made a name for himself by advocating "re-engineering" — a process described as the radical rethinking of a company's procedures.

For certain tasks, it is said to result in dramatic improvements in productivity and in the United States its advocates include large companies such as AT&T, American Express, Eastman Kodak and Texas Instruments.

Work that is fragmented must be streamlined and organised around a particular outcome, says Dr Hammer, and this can often be handled by a single employee.

Favourite examples include Hall-



Under the magnifying glass: examining microchips on a circuit board at Bull, which has announced it will cut 18 per cent of its workforce

mark Cards, said to have reduced the time taken to get a new line of greeting cards to the market from three years to one year, after finding that for 90 per cent of the time new ideas were not actually being worked on but sitting on people's desks.

But the most impressive results have come from areas such as issuing insurance policies or credit checking before providing a loan, where a series of specialists in different departments would look at each form — a process that took weeks. The re-engineered answer is to realise that 95 per cent of the forms are straightforward and that the whole process can be dealt with in a few hours by one employee.

This sort of organisational change invariably includes the judicious use of IT, such as networking software so that information can be shared almost instantly.

Under this new order it is white-collar workers and middle manage-

ment that have most to fear. Dr Hammer claims that re-engineering a company can reduce certain levels of management by up to 75 per cent, with the current average of seven people reporting to each manager likely to move to a ratio of 30:1.

Dr Hammer also argues that re-

Re-engineering a company can reduce management levels by up to 75 per cent

engineering need not necessarily lead to huge job losses. Yet every example shows that far fewer jobs are required in re-engineered areas and, unless the company is lucky enough to be short of staff in other areas, redundancies have followed.

Dr Hammer bases his argument on the idea that re-engineered com-

panies that do the same amount of work, but with fewer people, are admitting defeat. His assumption is that success in re-engineering a company should make it far more competitive and hence able to do far more business while retaining the same number of people.

The reason for so many redundancies being associated with re-engineering, he says, is that the term has been hijacked and is being misused by some companies wanting to present job cuts not so much as a result of recession but as the sensible application of a new management technique. It begs the question of whether IT companies which are promoting re-engineering to their customers are taking a dose of their own medicine.

Certainly job cuts are everywhere in the industry. IBM is expected to announce that it will double the number of planned job losses to 50,000 this year. This week the

French computer company Bull announced it would increase its job cuts to 6,500 people, 18 per cent of the workforce, and Apple said it would lay off about 2,500 people, more than 15 per cent of its worldwide employees. Apple says that it plans to implement "a broad re-engineering of the company", while Bull has hired the American re-engineering firm Symmetrix.

But in the IT industry, re-engineering is likely to have caused few of the job cuts. Over capacity in the world's computer manufacturing plants is a cited as a far bigger reason.

Where re-engineering has worked it has often involved a hefty investment in IT but the good news for some white-collar workers, if not their companies, is that Dr Hammer concedes there is a high failure rate. Seven out of ten re-engineering efforts have failed to achieve any benefits at all.

ONLINE

The race hots up

ADVANCED Micro Devices has released its first three versions of micro-processors that can power personal computers designed to be run on an Intel 486 chip.

The company claims the Am486, based on its own microcode, offers 21 per cent faster performance over Intel's 486 chips at no additional cost.

This week AMD announced second quarter earnings of £43 million, up 55 per cent on earnings in the same quarter a year ago. Sales grew 17 per cent to £273 million.

Just a twiddle

LAUNCHING a radio station on crackly medium wave that is aimed at an audience used to listening to music on compact discs is less than ideal. Richard Branson now wants his Virgin 1215 rock station to be allowed a better quality FM frequency.

This week he told a parliamentary committee examining the BBC's future that a new FM network was feasible, would involve only "a little bit of twiddling here and there" to existing frequencies and could be set up within a year at minimal cost.

Rivals unite

DATABASE software rivals Borland and Lotus are to work together on integrating a forthcoming release of Borland's Quattro Pro for Windows with Lotus Notes.

The companies say Quattro Pro users will be able to store spreadsheets in Notes Release 3 databases and utilise Notes features, such as group information sharing and database replication.

In April Borland announced an alliance with Word Perfect, designed to challenge Microsoft's grip on the software industry.

Roman returns

AFTER being dethroned from Rome's Capitoline Hill 12 years ago, Marcus

Aurelius Antoninus may soon return to reign. The 1,800-year-old bronze equestrian statue of the stoic Roman emperor was taken down in 1981 because heavy pollution was causing severe damage.

Restorers are now using a three-dimensional imaging process, usually used to make relief maps, to create a computer model that can then be used to make a copy. A computer-controlled incisor will carve out a glass mould, and then the restorers can return to age-old casting methods.



Sun shines

SUN Microsystems has introduced a new line of graphics computers that it says can work three times faster than comparably priced rival models.

Sun, of Mountain View, California, dominates the booming market for workstations, the more powerful cousins of personal computers. This lucrative field has grown as users, such as engineers and architects, require more and more computing power to solve complex problems.

World access

NCR, the computer-systems subsidiary of AT&T has introduced an electronic-forms system that allows users to send data from computerised forms not only across local area networks but around the world. The package is aimed at replacing paper-based forms and manual filing with a totally electronic process.

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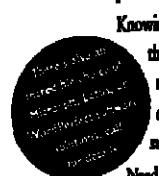
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Top rewards for network wizards

Networking skills are in short supply and the reason is not hard to find. Ten years ago, there were hardly any interconnected personal computers in the UK; today, one-third of all PCs are networked; and in two years that proportion is expected to rise to half. It means that the use of networks is far outstripping the supply of network specialists. Everyone in the field notices the shortage — software suppliers, hardware companies and, increasingly, the user companies where whole computing strategies are now based on networks.

"Technical skills in short supply are in the area of telecommunications, networked PCs and local area networks," says one reply to a survey by the West London Training and Enterprise Council. "There are few good people and they command a premium, although they often lack basic skills."

How high a premium may depend on geography. According to Hugh Emerson, the managing director of Nescomms, a networking

Specialists with new skills can earn good money, David Guest notes

recruitment specialist, demand is coming mainly from the South East and North West, and from central Scotland. "The greatest premium is in Unix networking. TCP/IP skills," he says. "With them, you can put 20 to 25 per cent on top of basic PC skills."

Even the industry leaders, who might be expected to be able to offer the most attractive salary and work prospects, find good networking specialists hard to find.

"We've been looking for two people in recent months," says Tom Honeybone, a Microsoft network manager. "We had a recruitment agency involved and an advertisement. One hundred applicants were whittled down to eight, whom we interviewed, and it all took about three months."

The problem, he adds, is not keeping good people but finding new recruits as the business grows. "We get some attention from head-hunters, but staff turnover is low to non-existent."

Demetre Cheras is systems director in charge of the networking division set up four years ago by Elnex, a budget PC supplier, and the company is still an agent for the local area network software supplier Novell.

"The demands that Novell impose are phenomenal," he says. "We needed a strong and powerful team to support our networking. We decided that the only safe way was to train our own people — otherwise you do not know what kind of a package you're getting. It is not just a question of knowledge or competence, but of attitude, team qualities, personality."

Part of the advantage of having the right attitude is, he says, that it can take an individual further than paper qualifications. "We take on people willing to learn and we train them," Mr Cheras says. "But there is also learning from experience,



Desperately seeking two: Tom Honeybone, of Microsoft, took several months to find candidates

and a variety of experience is important. We have six particularly good people at a high level of expertise simply because they have swotted at it."

Of the skills pool available, he says: "You can get PC engineers,

but you can't get network engineers. A network engineer already has to be a PC engineer."

The specific networking experience in highest demand by volume is in the network-control software product, Novell Netware. This

accounts for an estimated 62 per cent of the local area networks in use. Novell has also set up a training programme.

Lalit Nathwani, Netware product manager for Novell in the UK, says: "There is a general shortage.

One of the things we are trying to do is make sure people are there at the right level. Individuals often take it up by accident — someone says to them, 'would you mind looking after this?' but there is more to networking than re-booting the server or plugging a tape in. This is an opportunity for people to take it up as a career, and we want to encourage that attitude."

Besides a number of product-based training courses, Novell awards certificates for Netware specialists at three levels. At the level of administrator they should understand the basics of local area network management; the certificate, Mr Nathwani says, "helps when applying for a job".

At the engineer level they should know the products inside-out and be in a position to provide technical support — there are about 2,500 in the UK. A more recent qualification brings in expertise in the networking concerns of large organisations — Unix interconnection, for example, and application development.

How will the shortage of networking skills resolve itself? Mr Nathwani believes that people will have to move with the technology. "People in the industry need to be more adaptable, more prepared to change their roles, and more able to bring their skills up to speed," he says. Mr Honeybone, however, sees the products evolving to a point at which less general expertise will be necessary.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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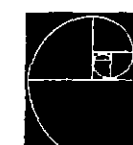
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Mercuri Urval

مركز التوظيف



THEATRE page 30
Thirty years later, Harry Secombe is still belting out the hits in a revival of *Pickwick* at Chichester

ARTS

ROCK page 31
The gamble pays off as Gloria Estefan goes back to her roots with an album of Latin music



GALLERIES: New art from China on show in Oxford; plus market news and recommended exhibitions

Eastern eyes look to the future

Chinese contemporary art may resemble work made in the West, but its cultural origins are clear, writes **Richard Cork**

Like June in Angel Meadow, Oxford, and Cai Guoqiang lights a short fuse. Within seconds, before the artist has retreated to an entirely safe vantage, the fuse ignites the gunpowder he has lodged between a disc and the large paper sheet below it. But after a fierce flash and a profusion of smoke, he wastes no time in lifting the red-hot disc. The circular burn left on the paper satisfies him, and he repeats the explosive process on the edge of the same sheet.

Displayed now in Oxford's Museum of Modern Art, the spectacularly scorched image still reeks of smoke. It has an apocalyptic impact, suggesting a planetary collision. Guoqiang seems fascinated by the prospect of a cataclysm engulfing the world, but he is equally intrigued by the notion of creation emerging from devastation.

The event in Angel Meadow, documented here by a video relayed on a screen, was staged as a tribute to the Oxford astronomer Edmund Halley. He gave a name to the comets that may have triggered the origins of life by colliding with the earth. And Guoqiang announces a determination to continue his own explosive pursuits by laying out heaps of gunpowder on the gallery floor, near a stone altar where herbal medicine, paper and charcoal are placed as if for a sacrificial ritual.

On one level, the result comes close to the installation work produced by so many young western artists. The Oxford survey is devoted to site-specific pieces specially commissioned by MOMA from Chinese artists, and it proves that some of them have travelled a long way from the old political correctness. Living for the most part outside their native country, they have no hesitation in adopting materials and strategies radically removed from the tradition of ink-wash paintings. Guoqiang's gunpowder image could be seen as an all-out attack on accepted Chinese methods of picture-making, blowing them up in order to escape from their inescapable constraints for ever.

On another level, though, the cultural origins of these eddies still show through. Chen Zhen, now based in Paris, shares Guoqiang's partiality for conflagration. Charred wood and newspaper ashes are heaped in a steeply ascending slope from the floor to near the ceiling of his space. But the apparent extremism of Zhen's work turns out to evoke the archetypal terraced fields of a Chinese landscape. Its inciner-

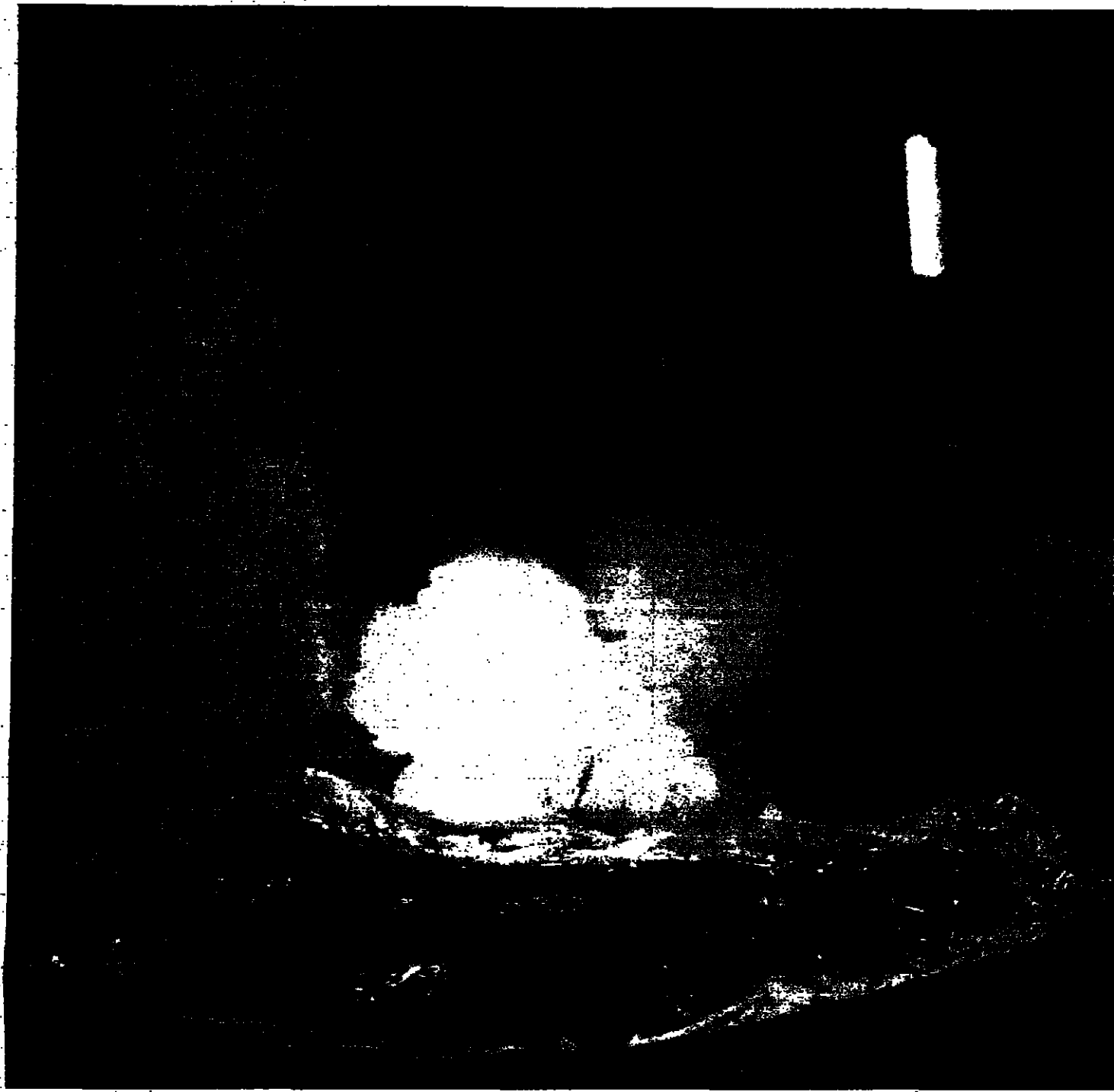
ated furrows suggest that a catastrophe has overwhelmed the country, despoiling centuries of civilisation. Is Zhen concerned with communism's destructive effect on China, or the threat posed to nature everywhere by technological advances? He leaves the question open, as befits an artist who has made his new home in Europe. Other exhibitors, though, share his pessimistic vision. Wang Luyuan, who still lives in Peking, conveys none of the knee-jerk optimism which used to be a hallmark of Maoist art. He has transformed the whole of his white, low-ceilinged room into a macabre factory where unspecified killings are carried out. It might be an abstract, but Luyuan ensures that the organic forms defined in his black wall-drawings are impossible to pin down. These swollen, sack-like shapes resemble buttocks or hugely inflated intestines. They may well belong to humans, and the motorised saws dominating the room are undoubtedly slicing through their flesh. Red lines run, like ropes on

'These artists have come a long way from the old political correctness'

pulleys from one cutting machine in the next, implying that they are all controlled by a single, ruthless intelligence. But the overall purpose of the slaughterhouse is far from clear. Sometimes the saws appear to attack each other, or are left to spin on their own, as though waiting for fresh victims to dismember. The most memorable areas, though, concentrate on metallic teeth tearing their way into plump yet helpless bodies.

By refusing to identify these doomed forms, Luyuan evokes a Kafkaesque world. Nothing is certain apart from the inevitability of an immense, remorseless process bent on persecution. The paranoia inherent in such a vision is tempered by the matter-of-fact way in which the cruelty is presented. Luyuan's drawings are closer to diagrams than protests. But their air of deliberation does not detract from their power. They force us to ask questions about the likely source of the oppression outlined here. And Luyuan offers no comfort to anyone hoping that the forces responsible for the Tiananmen Square massacre no longer prevail in China today.

Huang Yongping, now based in France, places time-honoured Western suspicions of the Orient at the centre of his provocative installation. Visitors approaching his room are confronted by a collapsed tent, filling the entire gallery and containing an entrance at either end. One of them leads to an empty space, lined in yellow material and lit by a single



Explosion of talent: Cai Guoqiang with one of his gunpowder works, an all-out attack on accepted Chinese methods of picture-making

naked bulb. But the other interior is far more disquieting. The see-through roof, alarmingly near our heads, turns out to be a breeding ground for 1,000 locusts and ten scorpions. Most of them dangle from a net some distance above, but occasionally they drop down with an eerie ticking sound. The title of this fascinating work, *Yellow Peril*, indicates that Yongping wants to make an ironic comment on European prejudices. But his own exiled status suggests that he harbours considerable misgivings himself.

By no means all the exhibitors have cut themselves off from Chinese art of the past. Xi Jianjun, who worked in London for several years, lays out five paintings like prayer-mats on the floor. Using a mixture of

wax and coloured pigment, he smoothes the surfaces of his wood panels like a cake-maker applying icing and marzipan with gusto. All the paintings give the impression of a gaseous, liquid substance which has only just cooled and gelled. The sense of spirituality suggests a kinship with Buddhist beliefs. But the indentations puncturing an orange picture on the wall look like bullet wounds, and their blood-red interiors are reminiscent of stigmata.

Suffering is always present in this survey, whether as intimation or plain statement. The colossal paintings shown by Yang Jiechang in the final, lofty room all contain encrusted black forms. Their cracked surfaces, bordered by white rice

paper, hang down like cliffs of coal. They have a funeral presence, and seem to share Chen Zhen's interest in charred deposits. But Jiechang never allows his paintings to become smeared or messy. Unlike Cai Guoqiang's gunpowder pictures, the white surrounds are all left unblemished and immaculate.

This fastidiousness is a hallmark of Chinese brush drawings, and Gu Wenda comes closest to tradition by exhibiting four long scrolls executed in 1986 with ink and wash on paper. The landscape images they contain are, however, combined with heretical red forms sprouting limbs attached to bells. The outcome is deliberately discordant, and since then Wenda has moved away from native propriety altogether.

In *The Enigma of Birth*, five wooden cots are ranged in the middle of his floor-space. The white beeswax splashed around them suggests that they are floating on a sea of milk. Dark brown placenta powder is scattered like earth on all but one of the mattresses. The other remains pristine, suggesting that birth has been aborted, but new life is emerging in the cots near by. Unaccompanied by propagandist heroics of any kind, these mysterious powdered forms could celebrate the advent of an invigorated Chinese art, liberated at last from the enfeebling clichés of communist conformity.

Silent Energy: New Art From China is at the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford (0865 722733) until August 29

CRITIC'S CHOICE

● **THE LAND OF EARTH, AIR, FIRE AND WATER:** The land in question is China, the subject of the main exhibition in this year's Guildford Festival. In fact, it is two linked exhibitions. That devoted to painting is dominated by the Manchurian Zhu Guang, showing work in both his original conservative style — meticulously drawn figures of north Chinese in traditional garb — and his new, where contact with Chagall seems to have brought in a becoming touch of fantasy and more brilliant colour. The other show, of pots, ceramic sculptures and textile work by Ying Yeung Li, shows again this Canton-born London-trained artist's extraordinary skill in balancing east and west to wholly personal ends. Gallery 90, Ward Street, Guildford, Surrey (0483 444740) Mon-Fri 10am-4.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, 1.30-4.30pm, until July 31.

● **JEHAN DALY:** For a relatively little known painter, Daly has in his 75 years shown in a remarkably grand collection of galleries. Traditional in style and subject matter, he manages to invest the ordinary with a visionary gleam. Martin Gregory, 34 Bury Street, SW1 (071-839 3731) Monday-Friday 10am-6pm until July 30.

● **BURNE-JONES — A QUEST FOR LOVE:** Burne-Jones may be the great British symbolist painter but in Britain he tends to be admired more for his tapestry and stained-glass designs than for his painted work. The Tate's forthcoming show of his drawings may well encourage a reassessment. This pendant show is more varied, including important watercolours as well as some of the comic sketches he did for children, prints from *The Flower Book* and a miscellany of arguably related late-Victorian art. Peter Nahum, 3 Ryder Street, SW1 (071-930-6059) Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm (also Sat in July) until August 27.

● **SCENIC ARTISTS SHOW:** The Elms Lesier Painting Rooms, built in 1904 specifically for the painting of theatrical backdrops and still used for that purpose, for five years now have held an annual show of fine art by any of the 200 artists who use the facilities. Almost all the artists who work here on theatrical and cinematic projects also paint on their own account, or take mural commissions. Elms Lesier Painting Rooms, Flitcroft Street, WC1, (071-836 6747) Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until July 24.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

John Heath-Stubbs, English poet and old-fashioned literary intellectual, is 75 today

A life in line with tradition

There are two things which strike one immediately about the poet John Heath-Stubbs. The first is his physical appearance. A large man with an amazing, almost noble, forehead and chin, he sits back in his chair and rolls his head when he laughs. There is a sense of unconscious dignity about him.

The second is his phenomenal memory. Favourite poems and extracts of books pour out effortlessly; long past conversations with other poets are remembered with an unimpaired exactitude. But the overall, not unlinked, impression is of a slightly solitary man who stands with one foot in the contemporary literary scene and one in a far older British tradition.

Heath-Stubbs, 75 years old today, has just published a new volume of poetry, *Sweetapple Earth*, and has completed his memoirs, a task he describes as "opening up a cupboard that you haven't opened for years and everything falls down on top of you". To his horror he has discovered one small error in the memoirs. The location of a youthful fancy dress party is given as Inverness, when in fact it took place in Dumfries.

"I think that is a sign of old age," he says, before launching into another conversation which took place 30 years ago. He is that very English thing: a poet and literary intellectual, now slightly old-fashioned, who has never been properly acknowledged, despite the awards and medals. His poetry is also thoroughly English.

By his own admission Heath-Stubbs found himself marginalised by a poetic establishment which took Larkin, Auden and Hughes as its favourites. He now, paradoxically, heads part of that establishment as the new president of the Poetry Society.

He laughs at the suggestion that, at long last, he has become "institutionalised". He will not get involved in Poetry Society politics and he does not much like contemporary poetry. "It rather depresses me what's going on now. It seems to me that it has become too easy. Most poets are just writing. I think the term is strident, sort of poems which are very close to prose observations."

Now, as an elder statesman of British poetry, he surveys the modern scene with an



John Heath-Stubbs surveys the modern scene with an unfashionably pedantic eye

unfashionably pedantic eye. Heath-Stubbs is generous about modern themes, but harsh with bad versifiers; he picks at a Tony Harrison poem which does not quite seem to mention the "elementary craftsmanship" lacking in some of our modern poems.

He is not particularly keen on Ted Hughes either: "He ploughs one vein rather strongly. He exploits his feelings about violence, which tends to go down well with teenagers. He was reluctant to take the laureateship, but then most people are."

"He is a bit hooked on Robert Graves and the white

goddess myth isn't he? I think he thinks that if he could turn the Queen into the white goddess he would be all right."

Heath-Stubbs awoke to poetry as a student at Oxford in the late 1930s and early 1940s, finding friends in other undergraduate poets, Sidney Keyes, William Bell and Drummond Allison. Keyes was killed in the North African campaign before his 21st birthday, Allison in the Italian campaign of the following year. 1944, and Bell died young in a mountaineering accident. "I think that, had they lived, poetry might have taken a rather different

turn," says Heath-Stubbs. His new work has a millennial, ecological feel. It celebrates "This green sweet-apple earth" but warns of its fragility. "On what a thin puff-pastry crust/We skitter about like beetles" — the shell is easily broken and the substance corrupted.

Heath-Stubbs is not out to convert, however. But he hopes the message will reach the right people and do some good: "It's always good to remember that people find it easier to name ten artists from any century than ten politicians."

ALISON ROBERTS

Undoing their bidding

THE silly season has arrived in the auction rooms, and buyers are getting themselves into all sorts of scrapes. First it emerged that the elderly Swiss dealer who bought a 19th-century German mechanical calculator for £7.7 million last month had not paid, and says he has no plans for paying. Red-faced staff at Christie's are now saying they are "taking instructions" from the Australian vendor on "what steps he wishes to take with the purchaser". As auctions are two-hour races, one might have imagined that there would be an underbidder eager to step in. But it has been reported that the only potential candidate is a German institute with £200,000 to spend.

Another silly-season incident took place on Tuesday, when George Goldner, senior curator at the Getty Museum, was spotted bidding for Michelangelo's drawing *Rest on the flight into Egypt*. This he has every right to do, and indeed, it was his museum which eventually secured the work at £4.18 million. The problem was that he had already employed the dealer Kaurin Bellingier, seated near by, to bid for him.

Goldner says "the purpose was to make sure we were on the right foot" (a reference to the fact that museums like going up in even increments in order to arrive finally at their upper limit). His bid, he says, put them back on course. He also says that "there was some benefit" in "confusing" the opposition.



And the latest rumour is that Rod Stewart, the pop star and collector, accidentally bid against his own agent when he bought a somewhat camp-looking Victorian painting of *St George and the Dragon* by Sidney Harold Meteyard last month. The estimate, considered far too high by some dealers, had been £60,000 to £80,000. After active bidding both on the telephone and in the room (where Stewart's agent was seen raising a hand), the winning bid was £100,000. Martin Beasley, Christie's expert, says that the painting

was bought by a London dealer but that he could have been acting for Stewart. The moral is that, despite their accessible images, auction houses can be dangerous places in which to play.

● **NO SUCH** bidding conundrums will arise on July 19, one hopes, when Sotheby's offer the papers connected to the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, the treatise which hoisted the Austrian-born philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein up among the greats. A revolutionary study of the function of language which greatly influenced later schools of Logical Positivism and linguistic philosophy, the *TLP* needs a clear-thinking buyer prepared to be logical and positive about paying between £45,000 and £55,000.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

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ROCK ON FRIDAY: The Miami sound machine digs up her roots ... paying dues for the blues .. Take this, Take That

Spanish is the loving tongue

For her latest album, Gloria Estefan went home — metaphorically — to Cuba. David Toop talked to her

Although the music of Cuba is acknowledged for its vitality and influence, the streams of musical inspiration that have spread from this island with a troubled history run throughout the world in patterns so intricate and extensive they are difficult to map.

As you read this, Tommy Musto could be deeply engrossed in mixing a dance track in a Manhattan studio, dubbing Latin percussion samples over a punching drum-machine beat. In Miami, Israel "Cachao" Lopez may have finished a happy-hour engagement, playing double bass at a bar in Little Havana. Last week, though, young female fans of Gloria Estefan sat on the pavement outside the Mayfair Hotel in London, waiting for a brief glimpse of their idol, should she emerge from the expensive comfort of her ninth-floor suite.

In *Mi Tierra*, her remarkable new album, Estefan has drawn together three generations of Hispanic innovators, including Cachao, flautist Nestor Torres, percussionist Tito Puente, Prince collaborator Sheila E and jazz virtuosi such as Paquito D'Rivera and Arturo Sandoval.

Despite a recent flurry of interest surrounding the filmed version of an Oscar Hijuelos novel, *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*, few mainstream artists of Estefan's stature would risk releasing a Latin album while their careers were at a peak. After years of cumulative success with Miami Sound Machine, her breakthrough into a mass market shared by the likes of Whitney Houston, Madonna and Janet Jackson has come from solo ballads such as "Don't Wanna Lose You" and "Anything For You". How was it possible to persuade her record company that the market was ready for raw Afro-Cuban rhythms from Santiago or elegant Havana *danzones* of the 1930s? Estefan is surprisingly candid

and voluble, compared with the scrupulously guarded interviews of other stars. "If you want to shut up a Cuban," she says, "just tie his hands down. It's impossible." She also seems to possess a sure control over her priorities.

"We performed arrangements that were very Latin-orientated on the last tour," she says, "and everyone would comment to me how they loved that. They wanted more of that. We were just waiting for the right moment. It actually came from Tommy Motola, the

'My grandmother was my only audience and the songs that I would sing to her were of her time in Cuba'

president of Epic [her record company]. When we went to discuss what we were going to do we were trying to feel around, see how we were going to tell him we wanted to do something very traditional. Then he said: 'Maybe you should do something really traditional.'"

Despite Estefan's optimism and that of her producer, husband, Emilio, the project could have run into a wall of incomprehension. All of the songs are written in Spanish, some of it obscure Cuban slang, and the instrumentation, although dipped in the sugared strings of the London Symphony Orchestra, is authentically, vibrantly Latin. Only Musto's tough remix of the first single, "Mi Tierra", makes any concessions to current pop taste.

Against all expectations, *Mi Tierra* entered the American *Billboard* pop charts at No. 41. Estefan's

highest entry ever. In Britain, where Latin music appreciation is restricted to a minority of enthusiasts, the album jumped to No. 11 within a week of release. The formula is clear: create a celebrity image, invite *Hello!* magazine into the family home and, from there, anything is possible.

Living in Miami, the Estefans are at the centre of a cultural experiment, through which they hear the music of Cubans, African-Americans, Haitians, Jamaicans, Dominicans, Brazilians and Colombians mingling and competing. Like Estefan, who left Cuba with her mother in 1960, the teenage children of Cuban-American families are devising hybrids of the traditional music they hear at home and the babel of voices they are exposed to outside.

For Estefan, now 35, the formative musical experiences came from balladeers such as Johnny Mathis, romantic Mexican bolero singers, Brazilian tropicalista artists, even Gerry and the Pacemakers. "I was six," she says. "My first memory of a song was 'Ferry Across the Mersey'. I remember it made my hair stand on end. I was driving into a laundromat with my mom and she was getting out. I stayed in the car, made her leave the car running so I could finish the song. To this day, every time I hear that song, I smell laundry."

But the core of her musical education remained in the sounds of Cuba. "I've been singing since I was a baby, three years old," Estefan says. "When I started playing the guitar when I was about eight or nine, they got me a teacher, an old Cuban. My grandmother was my only audience and the songs that I would learn to sing to her were of her time in Cuba. I knew these rhythms and, when I came to sing them, they were very natural to me."

In some respects, *Mi Tierra* is a didactic project which consciously



"We wanted to make a bridge to a generation of musicians that started it all": Gloria Estefan on *Mi Tierra*

links some of the unsung heroes of Cuban, Puerto Rican and Latin American culture. Estefan is eloquent in her praise of these musicians. Crucial to the exercise is the legendary Cachao, now in his late seventies. He is a bass player of such mathematical precision that even Jaco Pastorius, the astonishingly agile electric bassist who performed with Weather Report before his untimely death, would sit in Florida clubs and study the master.

During the 1930s, Cachao updated and enlivened the refined *danzones*, dances of French origin that had been played in Cuban high society salons during the 19th century. With his brother, he devised the *mambo*, a dance destined to become a worldwide craze. Later, in the 1950s, he recorded albums of *descargas*, or jam sessions which exerted a profound influence on commercial *salsa* and Latin jazz. Naturally, he has received no money and little credit for

innovations which have made millions for others.

Although Cachao would not be able to stand the rigours of touring, Estefan plans to stage the album in a setting that would create a similar impact to Paul Simon's *Graceland*. "We wanted to make a bridge to a generation of musicians that started it all," she says.

"I think music is the best side of life, because you experience something that ties people together rather than splits them apart."

NEW WAVES

The insider's guide to the Next Big Thing

When bubblegum pop popped off the agenda after the demise of Bros, pundits foresaw the end of the world. Video had killed the radio star, they moaned. Now, only Hollywood screen idols (few though they may be), sports stars and bleeping game consoles can satisfy the lusts of teen spirit.

Last summer, green shoots of revival began to appear. "Bright new hopes or false idols?" a trade paper investigation enquired, one hand gripping the aspirin bottle. The continuing success of Take That and East 17 has proved that the optimistic prognosis was the correct one.

But whose faces and torsos will replace today's pin-ups? Bad Boys Inc., four sultry males with no particular biography to speak of, seem the most likely candidates to excite tomorrow's scream-o-meters. "Don't Talk About Love", their first single, has the Wham! touch, not least from Matthew Pateman's vocal style. Out of Wham! sprang George Michael, of course, and with this lucrative transformation in mind, the record company accountants will be screaming and fainting with even more enthusiasm than Bad Boys Inc.'s young fans.

Other tracks, such as "Walking On Air", betray an educated awareness of black music history. This is hardly surprising, since the Svengali of Bad Boys Inc. is Ian Levine, a man with a considerable biography. A veteran DJ of the northern soul scene, successful hi-NRG disco producer and Motown obsessive, Levine was also responsible for some of Take That's hits.

Working with co-producer Billy Griffin in Los Angeles, his studio skills have written yet another chapter in the story of blue-eyed soul. Prepare the crash barriers and stock up with earplugs now.

DAVID TOOP

BLUES TRAVELER

Save His Soul (Polydor 540 080-2)
"LOSE spiritual relatives of the Spin Doctors, Blues Traveler have been written off in the past as nouveau-hippy bad dogs of questionable contemporary relevance. However, it will be harder to make that one stick now that he Spin Doctors have shown he way with a hit single and a Top Three album on both sides of the Atlantic."

In common with the Spin Doctors, Blues Traveler are a four-piece group from New York. They came of age in the late 1980s, along with a generation of bands adhering to an anti-corporate, play-doh-vor musical philosophy choosing that of 1960s heroes such as the Grateful Dead and the Allman Brothers Band.

Accomplished musicians and instinctive jammers, but with no fashionable selling point or image for the stylists to get hold of, they have bypassed the conventional harness of MTV, radio and record company hype, and built up a massive fan base by dint of non-stop toil on the live circuit.

Save His Soul, their third album, is an astounding mixture of blues-rock riffs, craggy, neo-country ballads, strangely unimpressive lyrics, and free-form instrumental wig-outs. Their most distinctive calling card is John Popper's harmonica. Not only is Popper a virtuoso, but Blues Traveler are arguably the first band in the history of rock to use the harmonica as a fully integrated rhythm and lead instrument throughout their set.

Popper is a pretty good singer too, supplying a range of emotions from the gently philosophical "Letter From A Friend" to the full-tilt grind of "Defense & Desire", a number which reveals a darker cast to his thoughts. Generally less couched than the Spin Doctors, they do tend to ramble a bit at times (and spelling is not their strong point, either). But when they hit their stride on the cut-time boogie of "Love & Greed" and the howling-wind funk of "NY Prophesie" they are in a class of their own.

NEW ALBUMS: America's Blues Traveler proudly join the Slade skool

The bad spell of success



Listen guys, it's i before e except after c: but then, with the sort of sound they brew up, should Blues Traveler care?

UB40
Promises And Lies (DEP International DEPCD 15)

UB40's first album since 1989's *Labour Of Love II* finds the Birmingham-based group regally unaffected by the reggae/ragga revolution which swept Snow, Shabba Ranks and Shaggy to the top of the chart in their absence.

Labour Of Love II was an album of covers, but while *Promises And Lies* has shrewdly been trailed by a (chart-topping) version of the Elvis Presley hit "Can't Help Falling In Love", the rest of the songs are all new compositions by the group.

Having prospered with the same eight-piece line-up since its formation in 1978, UB40 have, not surprisingly, learned how to play to their strengths. These continue to be precise reggae rhythms decorated by rich horn and keyboard motifs

and overlaid with languid vocal harmonies. Although singer Ali Campbell's ersatz Jamaican accent still lends a faintly exotic patina, it is not enough to disguise a rigorously applied formula, which leaves little to chance, whether it be the sprightly romanticism of "Bring Me Your Cup", the moderately uptempo lust of the title track or the midpace skank of "Now And Then".

For all its gentle charm, the leisurely politesse of the UB40 sound now borders on the complacent.

PETE TOWNSHEND
Psychoderelict (Atlantic 7567-82494-2)

STOP me if you've heard this one. A washed-up rock star, aged 50, has lost the inspiration to write and perform music. Not a man noted for the good taste or modesty of his visions, he has long been regarded as a bit of a joke by

the press. Bitter, insecure, inclined towards the bottle, he eventually hits on the idea of writing a concept album — something to do with dreams and the future and virtual reality and how awful it feels to be a rock star pushing 50. This, believe it or not, is the plot of Pete Townshend's *Psychoderelict*.

A toe-curling exercise which wobbles uncertainly between thinly veiled autobiography and wildly improbable fiction, this preposterous melodrama is presented in the form of a radio play with music. A succession of second division songs, some of them retrieved from the notorious *Lifescape* project (junked by The Who in 1971), are thus linked by actors reading the parts of faded rock star Ray High ("I've been completely degraded by chasing publicity ... I'll never go back"), Rasmus Knight, his manager ("What you need,

Ray, is a kick up the bloody arse"), and Ruth Streeter, a happy journalist ("The only thing Ray's writing these days are large cheques to his booze merchants").

The indifferent musical performances, the risibly clichéd script and the wearily self-absorbed tone of the piece as a whole ensure that this "project" is an unmitigated disaster, made all the more crushing by the epic scale of its pretensions.

THE BEACH BOYS
Good Vibrations — Thirty Years Of The Beach Boys (Capitol 7 81294 2; six discs)

AS IS now the standard practice with these marathon boxed-set compilations, the core repertoire of "the most popular and influential American vocal group ever" arrives mixed up with a lot of oddities and curiosities — demo tapes, impromptu jams and so forth — most of which are likely to be of more interest to collectors and hardcore fans than to the ordinary listener (or the ordinary reviewer for that matter).

The problem is compounded in the case of the Beach Boys, by the fact that once Brian Wilson had disintegrated as a writer (and personality) some time during the aborted *Smile* sessions in 1967, the group was, creatively speaking, a spent force. The collection includes the previously unreleased recordings from the *Smile* project — Wilson's "missing masterpiece" turns out to be half-a-dozen unfinished snippets of intricate choral doodlings — and there is even a bonus CD comprising five insignificant tracks which, for reasons it is difficult to fathom, were apparently not included in the American package.

Every great song the band ever recorded is here, from the naive exuberance of "Surfer USA" to the "pocket symphony" of "Good Vibrations". But given the paucity of decent songs recorded by the group since Wilson became incapacitated, a six-disc collection is at least three too many.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CONCERT

Sex pistols on tour, secretly

INXS
Town & Country Club, Leeds

Full Moon, Dirty Hearts, due to be released in September.

THE first of 18 sold-out low-key concerts in a tour that has taken INXS out of the world's stadiums and into its clubs, was a moist and noisy triumph.

The master plan for the "Get Out Of The House Tour" is deceptively simple: during the coming month, INXS will announce the venue in which they are set to play via local press and radio, perform to a select band of fans who had the foresight to buy tickets "blind" two months previously, and move on to the next location the following morning.

Having cut — and, in all probability, broken — their teeth on the Australian pub circuit in the early 1980s, this was something of a roots reacquaintance operation for the guitar-led six-piece — and they rose to the occasion.

Cynics have been swift to suggest that this return to modest venues has been prompted by a waning in audience interest, although rudimentary mathematics reveal that the band will play to more people in their July jaunt than they would have if they were to have booked five Wembley Arena shows.

INXS's strength lies in their ability to marry huge stomping choruses to dark, brooding verse structures. Andrew Farriss, the principal musician and writer, rarely lets subtlety and sophistication interfere with a powerfully populist tune and, to that end, has created some of the most potent rock anthems of the past decade. "Need You Tonight" and "Suicide Blonde" were played with a vigour and enthusiasm that only such audience intimacy can engender. "Devil Inside" and "New Sensation" sounded as close to heavy-metal Tama Motown as we are ever likely to experience.

When the ruminative rap "Mediate" momentarily quietened the effusive crowd, the band seized this moment of tranquility and doused them with mineral water.

In addition to performing the majority of material from last year's critically garlanded album, *Welcome To Wherever You Are*, INXS also took the opportunity to premiere material from a new LP, tentatively

long-term campaign insisting that they are more than singer Michael Hutchence's backing band, it would be hard to imagine INXS without their snake-hipped frontman.

Combining the mildly intriguing with the frankly sexual, Hutchence — wearing a strategically ripped T-shirt — worked the crowd's affections like a seasoned stripper. Cavorting in a knowingly mysterious fashion, he chose to lunge frequently into the front row for a brief exchange of the more socially acceptable bodily fluids. Between songs, he murmured indistinct streams



Hutchence frankly sexual

of consciousness, but by this point the audience was prepared to forgive him anything. Hutchence's singing voice is by no means a classical instrument, but it has a raw, lisping charm and he can slip into vocal overdrive without any audible straining.

The musicians opted for solid dependability as opposed to unnecessary showmanship. Kirk Pengilly's occasional saxophone outbursts aside, instrumental embellishments were kept to a minimum, the songs remaining of paramount importance.

Encoring with a superbly punkish version of "Heaven Sent", INXS concluded their set sullen and sozzled with a ten-year-old song, "Don't Change". It was a testament to their fans' loyalty that they sang along as one, word perfect.

ADRIAN DEEVOY

MADONNA WORLD
OUR: Ms Ciccone's first world tour in three years jacks off at Wembley Stadium on September 25 and tickets for "The Girlie Show" on sale today at 9am. General admission, £22.50 (subject to booking fee) on 01-900 1234; reserved seating, £27.50 (ditto) on 01-982 699. Madonna last came to Britain in July 1990 with her "Blonde Ambition" show. This time around, the set scores material from

Madonna's latest album, *Erotica*, which has passed the double-platinum mark in both America and Britain. "Rain", the latest single from *Erotica*, is released on July 19.

NOW BOOKING:
Tickets go on sale today for shows by David Sylvian and Robert Fripp at the Apollo, Manchester (061-273 3775) December 1; Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow (041-332 6633) December 2;

WHAT'S OUT, ABOUT AND COMING UP

Albert Hall, London (071-589 8212) December 4-5. New album, *The First Day* (Virgin) available now.

BOOK: *Not Fade Away — The Rolling Stones Collection* by Geoffrey Giuliano (Penguin/Tiger/Dragon's World, £20). Amazing collection of (photographed) memorabilia

with atypically anodyne accompanying text from Beatles specialist/hatchet man Giuliano. Old records, posters, photographs, sheet music, cover artwork, bubblegum cards, pinball machines and promotional items from every stage of both group and individual careers.

TELEVISION: *Late With Jools Holland* (BBC2, tonight, 11.15pm). Guests include Clannad and Paul Weller.
Roc Docs: Leonard Cohen (BBC2, tonight/tomorrow, 12.10am). Re-run of 1988 Omnibus profile of the 58-year-old Canadian who is currently as fashionable as he's been at any point in his extraordinary career. The film includes footage of Cohen's early years and reveals a man of

surprising warmth and good humour.

SINGLE: *Delicious Monster: "Ripped"* (Ftune). Birmingham quartet featuring the swooping vocalese of Rachel Mayfield. Bright, bouncy indie-pop, full of innocent jangle and twang, although "Peace", on the B-side, is drenched in a flood of feedback, suggesting they may have a few darker strings to their bow.

Magnificent men in racing machines

Few people watching the British Grand Prix at Silverstone this weekend will be aware that this month marks the 90th anniversary of the first international motor race to take place in the United Kingdom.

S.F. Edge, driving a British-built Napier, had won the 1902 Gordon Bennett Race from Paris to Vienna and that gave Britain the right to organise the 1903 event.

This brought joy to the Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland (later the RAC) but consternation to the Establishment, whose sentiments reflected the anti-motoring spirit of the times. One MP described motorists as "statutory trespassers on the road... with no inherent rights whatever", while another suggested that the penalties for motoring offences should, in some cases, include flogging. Another advocated a 6mph speed limit for the "cars of Juggernaut".

Even the king was dubious about the potential danger of motor racing to his subjects, contacting the home secretary to express his doubts. Nevertheless, the club was determined to hold the race in the British Isles and delegations explored the flat, empty roads of Lincolnshire and the less inhabited parts of Scotland looking for a possible venue.

Eventually an energetic Irishman, R.J. McCreedy, suggested the Emerald Isle. He felt that the race would stimulate the Irish tourist trade and boost the country's fading rural economy — in the same way as recently happened with the Eurovision song contest.

A reconnaissance party was sent to Ireland, which reported favourably, the only problem being that a few chickens had been killed and the "two prospectors had great difficulty in persuading the sporting peasant owners to take compensation".

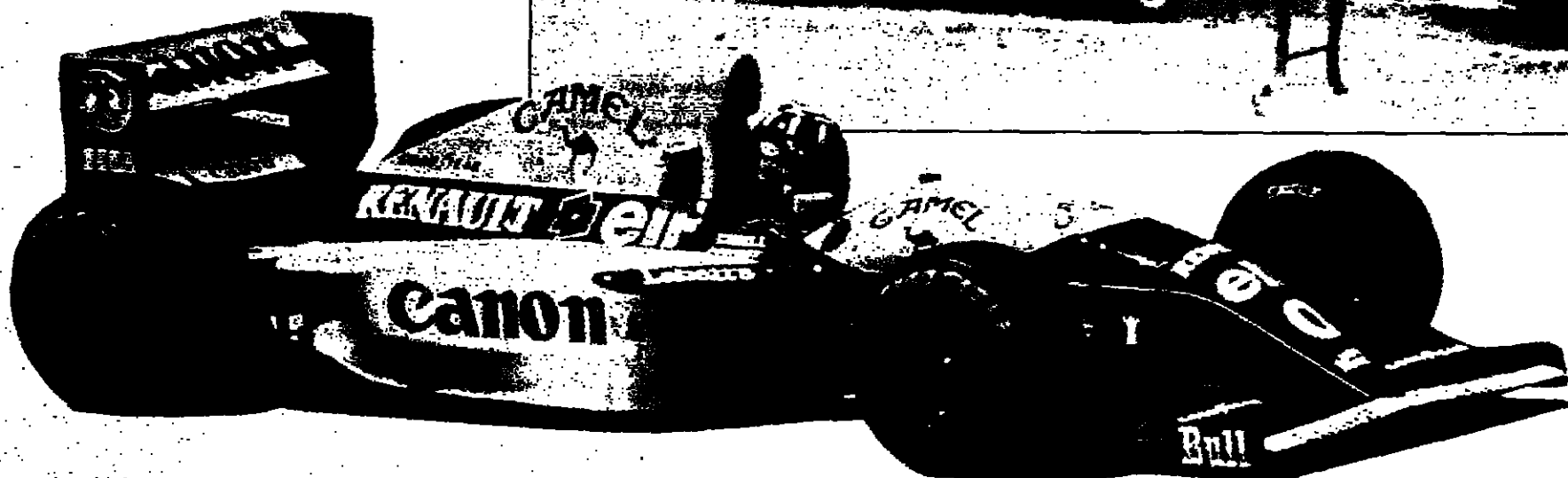
A contemporary journal commented: "Irish enthusiasm expressed itself in strange ways. They are all anxious to see 'one of them' vokes going 80 miles an hour, and are already asking the question as to which would be the best horse to put their money on."

"Of course, a donkey in the lead of dreams and in the middle of the road would be an unpleasant object to encounter at the speed of the Gordon Bennett race. The encounter would also be unpleasant in all probability for the donkey."

The club then embarked on a massive public relations campaign, circulating letters to anybody who nattered in Ireland, from MPs to parish priests and a bishop, who described himself as an ardent advocate of the race.

Nevertheless, racing on the public roads was still illegal in Great Britain and it was left to my father, as champion of the motorists' cause in the House of Commons, to draft a bill and steer it through the House. His Private Member's Bill

On the eve of the British Grand Prix, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu celebrates the 90th anniversary of the United Kingdom's first international race. The winner averaged 49mph



Then and now: the Napier that won the first motor race held in the United Kingdom (top), and (above) Damon Hill, one of the favourites to win the British Grand Prix

passed through the Commons in a week, which must be a record.

The Irish county councils approved the idea unanimously, re-assuring themselves that they would not have to pay for the necessary road improvements. Ireland expressed the hope that the Gordon Bennett would bring it greater prosperity.

For the benefit of foreigners, who were expected to survey the route prior to the race, the Automobile Club issued a warning: "The foreigner beginning to drive his car on Irish roads for the first time, and having thoroughly drilled himself to remember that the rule of the road is to keep to the left, will again be caused to wonder whether his senses have left him since arrival in the island by finding that 50 per cent of the drivers of horse and ass cars will keep to the right. This is really a serious matter and should be borne in mind."

In the meantime, the Irish were preparing to cash in by quoting £6 for one small room for a night, ten shillings a seat for a four-mile ride in a car and 6d for a glass of mineral water. The cost of petrol

was high and virtually rationed in Dublin; one enterprising Irishman claimed to have found a petrol well in his cellar but this was found apparently very dilute.

The club's officials were wrestling not only with the task of creating a circuit at Athy, south west of Dublin, from virtually nothing, but race challenges had come in from France, Germany and America. Unlike today, racing was against the clock and Gordon Bennett rules required each country to enter a team of three. Eliminating trials were held and Napier again won the rights to represent Britain, Panhard France and Mercedes Germany.

Disaster struck in June, a month before the race, when the Mercedes factory at Cannstatt, Stuttgart, was burned down and all of its 90hp cars were destroyed. An appeal to English owners of the older 60hp type was made in order to avert German withdrawal. Among those who responded was Alfred Harmsworth, whose machine still exists today and is in the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu.

The Irish Gordon Bennett was

fast becoming an international spectacle. An appeal was launched to help finance improvements to the course. Stretches of the circuit were treated with a dust-laying preparation called Westrumite, a compound of petroleum and ammonia. The operation was entrusted to a young man named Perical Perry, who later introduced the Ford car to Britain and was raised to the peerage as chairman of Ford of Dagenham.

Special trains were laid on from Dublin, a 1,000-seater grandstand was erected and a contemporary American guide listed all the blacksmiths' shops. The elaborate system of timing and control envisaged a staff of no fewer than 27 people per control, which included staff on bicycles whose job it was to guide the cars through neutralised areas within the control.

In order to avoid confusion, each control had 12 watches, one for each competing car. Each team had its own headquarters in separate establishments but the French organised their visit in a grand

manner on board a 3,500-ton ship, which included an impressive floating workshop housing 12 Panhards, eight Mors and a staff of 100.

As the crowds poured in, the traffic from Dublin was rigorously controlled and overtaking was forbidden. Livestock was banished from the roads. The race was fixed for July 2 and at 6.10am all was ready for the start at Killybegh north of Athy.

The first racing car — Edges' Napier, painted British racing green for the first time as a tribute to the shamrock — left at 7am. He darted off to loud cheers followed by de Knyff's Panhard and the American Owe in the four-cylinder Winton. De Knyff's Mercedes went off like a rocket but another Winton, which arrived late at the start, stuck there for 40 minutes before it got away.

The British team did not fare well. The Napier driven by Stocks collided with a wire barricade at Ballymoon and his team-mate Jarrott's steering gave way on a straight stretch at about 60mph. The car bounced off a high grass

bank and rolled downhill. Bianchi, Jarrott's mechanic, was strapped in underneath with a red-hot exhaust pipe pressing against his chest. With superhuman effort, Jarrott managed to lift the car clear before he himself passed out. When he came to, he found himself lying under a sheet, left for dead.

Fortunately, neither he nor Bianchi was seriously hurt but bad news travels fast and rumours of their deaths had already reached the grandstand. The alarming stories were not refuted until the German driver de Caters sportingly undertook to stop his Mercedes at Killybegh and reassure the crowd. He was loudly cheered for his gesture.

By midday a downpour had started but fortunately there were no further crashes. In the end, it was Germany's day with Jenatz's Mercedes winning in 10hrs 15mins at an average speed of 49.2mph followed by an entire French team of Panhards, which ran consistently throughout.

The Americans were never in the race at all, eliminated by overheating and punctures. So the Gordon

Bennett Cup went to Germany and the Montagu team prize to France.

The Automobile Club journal reported that "few will forget the sight... the avalanche of tremendous reports from the engine, great flames shooting out of the exhaust suggesting a condensed edition of *The Inferno*". But most importantly the race had been run without serious incident and with a marked degree of efficiency. The only fatality was a small boy who was run down by a tourist car.

Among the anti-motoring fraternity, one of the converts was Dr Walsh, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, who found himself stranded on race day at Killybegh trying to get to Crookstown, ten miles away. The only transport available was Charles Cordingley's Mercedes and the journey was safely accomplished within the hour.

The archbishop later confessed that he would not have made the trip had he known the speed at which he was to travel. In spite of this, he frankly confessed his enjoyment of the ride, which was punctuated by murmurs of "steady, steady" from his agitated chaplain.

So motor racing came to Britain and paved the way for the building of the Brooklands race track in 1907. Later this month, I shall be taking the Napier car in which Jarrott competed to drive around the Irish circuit once again in a splendid celebration organised by the Irish Veteran and Vintage Car Club. This is Britain's oldest original racing car and was brought back to Beaulieu from America a few years ago. I will take my hat off at the place where Jarrott crashed as a tribute to all who took part in that race in July 1903.

Ghosts of the past roll back the silver years

Fifty Rolls-Royces came from all over the world to commemorate a famous win. Kevin Eason reports

The big American did not seem the least concerned that the bottom of his German passenger was getting a little hot. It was a sweltering day on the last lap of a 1,700-mile rally and Don Meyer simply thought that some sweat was to be expected, even though the German, who had taken a lift in Meyer's 1914 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost protested for several minutes, about the rapid rise in temperature.

The German should perhaps have protested longer; the car, in fact, was on fire and he was being slowly roasted from beneath. Even then, Mr Meyer was not too worried. A quick burst of a fire extinguisher and the car was on its way again. You expect that sort of thing, the odd fire or two, in a car that has been ploughing up and down Alpine passes for two weeks. A car, moreover, that is used to these little incidents. Only 70 years ago, Sir William Coats-Cross was on a Scottish holiday in it and after "making a sincere effort to impair the world's Scotch whisky inven-

tory, made a slight miscalculation and fearlessly drove the car into the Solway Firth".

Mr Meyer was one of 50 Rolls-Royces that made a pilgrimage to Vienna this month to take part in a re-enactment of the famous 1913 Alpenfahrt (Alpine Rally). It finished gloriously, this week and, though the youngest model was 60 years old, every car has made it home in one piece.

These are machines worth between £150,000 and £250,000, depending on their age and rarity. But they are also cars that are driven, not cosseted in air-conditioned garages as investment pieces. Their owners all believe that there is no joy in owning such cars unless they are at the wheel pushing the renowned engineering to its limits.

The owners, who come from four continents, are a resilient group. Some spent thousands of pounds air-freighting and shipping their cars to the start line in Vienna. Some intrepid Britons simply took the traditional route and drove their cars the 900 miles from Calais, struggling off the possibility of breakdown.

There was no point in asking them how confident they were of arriving in Vienna or finishing the rally. The answer was always the same: "The Rolls-Royce is the finest car in the world."

It was not ever thus. In 1912, a Rolls-Royce taking part in the Alpenfahrt simply ran out of steam on one of the steepest alpine stages, and was overtaken by French and German cars. Henry Royce was morti-

fied — not least because he was about to open a showroom in Vienna — and ordered an inquest. That led to the complete redesign of the Silver Ghost, with more than 100 improvements.

One of them had to be the starting mechanism. Competitors were given ten minutes to warm up and move to the starting point. Rolls-Royce drivers had had to use a method which involved "pumping up the air pressure, lifting the bonnet, tickling the carburettor and putting a penny under the low-speed jet, starting up, waiting for the engine to warm and then taking the penny out", according to a contemporary report. If Rolls-Royce was going to be the best car in the world, it would have to be at the start line on time.

All the redesigning worked: in 1913, four cars swept to the top of the leader boards each day and James Radley, a wealthy adventurer and Rolls driver, eventually won.

That was the last time Rolls-Royce entered a team — the risk of defeat was perhaps too great. But the enthusiasts have longed for the chance to repeat the epic journey, even though the cart-tracks of the original rally have now been replaced by Tarmac and concrete.

This year's re-run took five years of planning by John Kennedy, chairman of the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club and his organising committee, who even managed to have some long-closed routes re-



The open road: a competitor enjoys the speed and the scenery en route from Vienna through the Alps in the rally

opened for the rally. Mr Kennedy's enthusiasm is understandable: he owns the 1913 winning Silver Ghost. Unfortunately, he was unable to compete this year. Just before the race the starting handle whipped back and broke his arm. He was forced to follow the rally's progress from an Austrian hospital bed.

That, however, was the last serious setback. The competitors roared their way around Austria, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia, where they were greeted by ecstatic crowds reared on Ladas and Skodas.

Among these polished mechanical beauties, one car stood out: that of Alan Clark, the former industry minister, winner of the unofficial trophy for the scruffiest car in the rally.

Mr Clark's 1920 Ghost had spent most of its life in India, owned by the Viceroy, Viscount Chelmsford. Somehow, the car found its way into the hands of an RAF squadron, which sawed off the original limousine body and replaced it with a wooden tail.

The car came back to Britain in 1966 but Mr Clark has

never had it restored. And as the polished mechanical beauties lined up at the finish against the background of the opulent Schloss Schönbrunn, palace of the Habsburg emperors, Mr Clark's car was particularly noticeable in its murky grey paintwork (described in the catalogue as "desert sand").

The car does not even have a Flying Lady on the bonnet but a bat, the symbol of the Indian-based RAF squadron. "You couldn't put a lady onto a heap like this," Mr Clark said, gallantly. For the record, the

overall rally winner was Colin Crabbe from Britain in a 1919 Silver Ghost. But the silver spirit was what really mattered. And as John Fyda, who had rebuilt an aluminium-bodied 1922 Ghost, put it the night before the finish: "Only a Rolls could get around that rally."

Well, not quite... Keen car-spotters might have picked out from the finishing line a 1914 Prince Henry Vauxhall, entered by John and Nigel Price from New Zealand. But everyone turned a blind eye. After all, it was made in Britain.

ROADWISE

Jaguars on approval

JAGUAR could be ready to declare war on its competitors in the luxury sector. Stratosphere, in Mayfair, central London, has decided to follow the lead of Ford, Vauxhall and Rover in this country by telling customers they can return the car and get their money back if they do not like it within 30 days of purchase. Jaguar already operates the scheme in the US where 2,541 cars were sold in four months and only 13 per cent were returned. If the deal is extended to other showrooms, Mercedes, BMW and others could be forced to follow suit.

Banger king

SPIES are required to spot the scruffiest car in Britain. Nominations, which should include full details of owner and car as well as a picture if possible, should go to Carbridge, 565, Wilmslow Road, Wittington, Manchester M20 9QH.

Safety first...

THE number of motorcycle accidents is the lowest since records began. There was a 7 per cent drop in casualties involving motorcyclists in the first quarter of the year. This group is the only one to meet the government target of a 40 per cent reduction before 2000.

...and last

VOLKSWAGEN is offering a safe to be fitted to its cars to foil even the most determined thief. The foam-lined lock-up is big enough to take cameras, binoculars or radios and takes 30 minutes to fit to the boot floor at a cost of £65.



Batty: Alan Clark's unusual emblem



Past master: Graham Hill had to bow to Jim Clark at Silverstone in 1965

Had I been properly dressed at Silverstone yesterday I might have walked through the "Competitors only. No children" enclosure and had a chat with Ukyo or his team-mate, Andre De Cesaris, whose Silverstone stats since 1988 are R R R R R with an extra R for the European grand prix at Donnington in April. My stats in the 1974-75 races were C C. In those days C stood for crashed; we told it like it was.



Blood testing begins at 'gold' meetings

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT



Gurnell: absent

THREE thimbles of blood for a few bars of gold. Blood testing for drug abuse will be used in athletics for the first time this weekend and, for those not put off by the thought, record prizes are on offer.

The first of the season's so-called "golden four" grand prix meetings is staged here in Oslo tomorrow, with gold bars as an incentive for any athlete winning at all of them. For the prolific winners, such as Sergey Bubka and Colin Jackson, potential earnings are higher than can be won in prize-money from the entire Mobil grand prix season.

Gradually the athletes' calls for bigger rewards are being answered: gold bars, grand prix prize-money trebled this summer, and Mercedes cars for winners at the world championships next month. The less that is paid in appearance money, and the more that is given in performance

incentives, the better the sport will be. The better it will be, too, for improving its track record on the drugs issue. "It is the first step down a road to what we believe will be the most successful method of testing," a spokesman for the International Amateur Athletic Federation's doping office said yesterday.

Urine sampling has never been wholly effective in competition because detection can be avoided by a carefully planned programme. With the help of steroids, an athlete can increase training workload but come off the drugs in time to return a negative test on competition day.

Furthermore, the development of masking agents to conceal steroids has advanced. The introduction of random out-of-competition testing has found more people out. Now it is believed that blood sampling will be a greater deterrent because some substances remain in the bloodstream longer than in urine.

Blood testing will not replace urine

sampling in the "golden four" meetings, but will be used in support of it. The test will require 25 millilitres, so any athlete worried about giving a Tony Hancock amount can rest at ease. The athletes have not been scared off, according to Svein Arne Hansen, the Oslo meeting director. "We were afraid of that, but it has not happened," Hansen said yesterday. "There has been not a single negative response, only positive."

The "golden four" comprise the Bislett Games here, the Weltklasse meeting in Zurich on August 4, the Istaf grand prix in Berlin on August 27, and the Ivo Van Damme memorial meeting in Brussels on September 3. They have combined to offer 20 gold bars, each weighing one kilogram, worth £170,000 in total.

The bars are to be shared among the successful athletes but, since few are sufficiently dominant to consider four wins out of four a realistic challenge, the likelihood is that the gold will be shared between two or three.

Or perhaps not shared at all: one athlete may scoop the lot. At £170,000, that is worth almost three times the prize-money of £65,000 in the paid to each of the overall grand prix winners, one man and one woman.

Out of contention already is Sally Gunnell, who has eyes only for the world championships in Stuttgart next month. There are 14 "golden events" with gold bar status, of which the women's 400 metres hurdles is one. But Gunnell is not here. After her emphatic victory over Sandra Farmer-Patrick in Lausanne on Wednesday, she has opted for training instead of another race.

But Britain's other successful hurdler, Colin Jackson, is entered and is one of perhaps six athletes with gold bar potential. If Jackson wins in Oslo, Zurich, Berlin and Brussels, he will be hoping that Noureddine Morceli, Sergey Bubka, Carl Devers, Elena Meyer and Helke Drouotier do not. Outside that group, there seems nobody up to the gold bar standard.

La Kota holds hopes of course record

DAVID Scully and Steve Fossett had high hopes last night of breaking Robin Knox-Johnston's course record for the second stage of the Tossie two-man round Britain and Ireland yacht race (Barry Pickhall writes). At 22m yesterday, La Kota, their 60ft American trimaran, was 30 miles north of Eagle Island off the northwest coast of County Mayo, having covered the first 280 miles from Crosshaven in 26 hours. The weather has been very windy and there are considerable waves, but the boat is performing well. We have been averaging 18 to 25 knots for the past 16 hours," Scully said. They are expected to reach Barra and beat the previous best time of 41hr 5min.

Bates eliminates Foster

TENNIS: Jeremy Bates led six British players into today's quarter-finals of the £35,000 Bristol Challenger Trophy when he defeated Andrew Foster, who reached the fourth round at Wimbledon. Bates, the British No 1 and top seed, broke Foster's serve on each set on his way to a 7-5, 6-4 win, and will face Mark Peckey, the seventh seed, in the quarter-final.

Chris Bailey will play Tim Henman, Nick Gould faces Chris Wilkinson, and Mark Knowles, of the Bahamas, the fourth seed, will meet Alex Reichel, an unseeded American.

Lockett's fastest ride

SHOW JUMPING: Geoff Lockett, riding Everest Fire One, gained a narrow victory in the speed class at the Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead yesterday. His score of 65.36 in the Bond International Chase was just 0.29sec faster than Keith Shore on Dun Equus, with Duncan Inglis on Flying Cloud third.

RESULTS: Bond International Chase: 1. Everest Fire One (G Lockett) 65.36; 2. Dun Equus (K Shore) 65.65; 3. Flying Cloud (D Inglis) 66.93. Daily Mail Family Challenge: 1. Time Out Sam (T Hogg) and Dean Orr (D Hogg) 78.90; 2. Diamond Quest (C Roberts) and Lenny (R Roberts) 77.22; 3. Joy Time (A Bick) and Phoenix (M Bick) 80.22. The A & H Hunter Championship: Champion: King's Water (R Oliver).

New Zealand rejected

RUGBY LEAGUE: Great Britain have turned down an invitation to tour New Zealand in late May and early June next year. A Rugby Football League spokesman said New Zealand would tour Britain and France this autumn. "We are also committed to sending a Great Britain team for the World Sevens in Australia in February, plus our champions will be playing in the World Club Challenge down under next June," he said. Keighley Cougars, the third division champions, have signed Kevin Marr, 27, the Australian back-row forward.

England poised for title

BOWLS: England, brimming with confidence and fortified by a big shots advantage, play Scotland in the deciding match of the home international series at Worthing today. They beat Ireland 128-100 yesterday, winning on four rinks, with David Ward overpowering Stevie Adamson, a world championship player last year, 35-9. Wales gave themselves a remote chance of retaining the title when they beat Scotland 114-106 in the morning. Both teams won on three rinks but it was David Wilkins's 25-9 defeat of Richard Corrie that made the biggest difference.

Gurkhas on target

SHOOTING: The 6th Gurkha Rifles won the King's Royal Rifle Corps Cup in the army centenary rifle meeting at Bisley yesterday after a week of concentrated combat shooting. They scored 156 match points for their performances in team and individual events, four points better than their second battalion, the Chindits, have strong competition in the final of the Queen's Medal for shooting today, with Capt Angus McLeod, of the School of Infantry, the 1990 winner, leading by three points from Cpl Ashok Sen, of the 2nd Gurkhas.

Injury jars for Beasant

FOOTBALL: Dave Beasant, the Chelsea goalkeeper, will miss the first month of the season after a freak household accident. Beasant dropped a jar of salad cream on his toe, which was put in plaster yesterday, and it will be at least two months before he can start training. "I've severed a tendon on the big toe of my right foot. I had an operation last week and now I'll be in plaster for a month," he said. "Everybody's laughing now, but it couldn't have come at a worse time. I instinctively tried to trap it with my foot. The salad cream bounced off my foot, but the whack did the damage."

Libya ban danger to Atlanta Olympics

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN BUFFALO

THE refusal of entry for the Libyan delegation to the World University Games which began here yesterday, poses a threat to next year's World Cup in football, hosted by the United States, and to the centenary Olympic Games scheduled for Atlanta in 1996.

The State Department has reneged on a guarantee to the International Federation of University Sports (FISU), that all competitors would be granted automatic entry. This guarantee is similar to that given for the Olympic Games.

Primo Nebiolo, the president of FISU, said yesterday: "When Buffalo presented its bid, the State Department of the United States gave a guarantee that all athletes would have free entry. We are upset, because we were confident in the document of the State Department of such an important country. If this confidence, we will have problems in the future in major sporting events. I am not happy for the United States which next year host the World Cup and in 1996 the Olympic Games."

Leroy Walker, president of the US Olympic Committee, said: "I tried talking with the State Department, but they would only speak anything else, not that I had a word yesterday with Samaranch [president of the International Olympic Committee] and, though concerned, he is not too worried at this stage."

Following the United States' air strike on Baghdad, there must be alarm about entry for Iraq in the World Cup should they qualify in their Asian group.

Bob Brennan, chief of the Atlanta Games press department, said yesterday: "It's premature to speculate on Libya's position because the invitations do not go out for another two years."



Veteran salute: an elderly woman, on less high-tech cycling equipment, greets riders during the fifth stage of the Tour de France

Nelissen battles back into the yellow

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

WILFRIED Nelissen regained a narrow overall lead after the fifth stage of the Tour de France yesterday as he duelled with Mario Cipollini, of Italy, continued under a blazing Normandy sun.

Jesper Skibby, of Denmark, won the stage over 226 kilometres (140 miles) from Avranches to Evreux, with a solo dash over the final kilometre, but second place was enough to earn Nelissen, of Belgium, the yellow jersey that he had held earlier in the week. Cipollini finished back in the chasing pack.

The stage came alive when Bjarne Riis, another Dane, made a lone break after 59km. He led the peloton by 6min 50sec at the 80km mark, but was swallowed up after 147km before a group of 13 riders, including Museeuw, Laurent Pignon, of France, twice the winner of the race, and Brian Holm, of Denmark, attacked. They too were chased down before Skibby surged through to win.

Meanwhile, the Americans have been proving they have other premier cyclists beyond Greg LeMond, the three-time Tour de France winner who is recovering from allergy-related fatigue that forced him to miss this year's race.

Andy Hampsten and Lance Armstrong, the Americans, made their presence felt in the fourth-stage team time trial when they paced the Motorola squad to a surprisingly strong third place.

GB-MG won the 81-kilometre (50-mile) time trial in 1hr 34min 10sec with ONCE five seconds behind in second place and Motorola a further 16 seconds back.

Hampsten and Armstrong at present lie thirteenth and fifteenth overall, both ahead of Miguel Indurain. But that situation is likely to change during Monday's individual time trial. Indurain has not lost an important time trial in

two years and should dominate. However, Hampsten is waiting for the mountains. He won the Alpe d'Huez stage last year and finished fourth overall, duplicating his finish of 1986 when he made his debut in the Tour de France.

Armstrong is just 21, making his first start and will probably drop out after two weeks to avoid being burnt out for future Tours.

The sixth stage, the shortest of the Tour apart from the time trials, takes place today over 158km between Evreux and Amiens.

FIFTH STAGE (Avranches to Evreux, 225.5km): 1. J. Skibby (Den), 1hr 34min 10sec; 2. W. Nelissen (Bel), 1hr 34min 15sec; 3. A. Hampsten (USA), 1hr 34min 20sec; 4. M. Cipollini (ITA), 1hr 34min 25sec; 5. L. Pignon (FRA), 1hr 34min 30sec; 6. B. Riis (Den), 1hr 34min 35sec; 7. P. Van der Laan (NED), 1hr 34min 40sec; 8. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 34min 45sec; 9. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 34min 50sec; 10. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 34min 55sec; 11. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 35min 00sec; 12. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 35min 05sec; 13. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 35min 10sec; 14. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 35min 15sec; 15. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 35min 20sec; 16. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 35min 25sec; 17. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 35min 30sec; 18. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 35min 35sec; 19. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 35min 40sec; 20. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 35min 45sec; 21. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 35min 50sec; 22. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 35min 55sec; 23. J. Vermeiren (BEL), 1hr 36min 00sec; 24. J. 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CHANNEL 4

6.30 **Heathcliff** The going gets tough for the feline star (1102354)

6.45 **The Adventures of a duck-billed platypus** (5954267)

7.00 **The Big Breakfast** Live morning show presented by Chris Evans and Gabby Probyn (68052)

9.00 **Saved by the Bell** American teenage drama starring Mark Goodson's son (67170)

9.30 **The Beloved** The *Wilde* *duo* pursues the 'Wozan' (6512847)

9.50 **Boop Boop** Cartoon tale of switched bugs. Directed by Howard Beckman (A3676)

9.55 **Once Upon A Time... Space** An animated exploration of the galaxy (16556880), 10.25 **Kidoo** How humans have become the planet's dominant race (14579450)

0.55 **The Adventures of Tintin** Tintin, Snowy and Captain Haddock go off in search of buried treasure (15296847)

1.20 **The Next Big Thing** Indie band FMB are still in search of stardom (TV) (3302286)

1.45 **The Fireguard** Cartoon by Hailas and Batchelor based on a poem of the sea (TV) (3168974)

2.00 **The Next Big Thing** Anne Parless with a round up of yesterday's business in about 76 seconds (74506)

2.30 pm **Seaside School** Early learning series. The guest is basketball player Luke Thomas (TV) (20064)

2.55 **Cartoon** about a naughty little dog (2044170)

3.00 **Oceans of Wealth** The last of four programmes about exploring the oceans' resources. Attempts to extract manganese and silver salts are being refined (TV) (24067689)

3.25 **Cartoon** Derek Thompson introduces a four-card race from York (66497847)

4.30 **Countdown** Letters and numbers game. (Teletext) (TV) (5644)

5.00 **Magic or Medicine?** Final programme of the series on alternative therapies. Dr Ricc Buckman offers his views (Teletext) (3644)

5.00 **Blossom** Last in the current series. Blossom decides to visit her mother in Paris (TV) (809)

5.30 **Happy Days** Fonzie accompanies Al on a civil rights demonstration (488)

5.40 **Cartoon** (Teletext) and washer (405840)

5.50 **First Impressions** A controversial perspective on the arts (TV) (551480)

6.00 **Tour de France** News and action. The cyclists travel from Avignon to Arns passing through the battlefields of the first world war (5903)

6.30 **Barney** Mervyn's play drama. Barney's difficulties on (Teletext) (30828)

6.40 **Garden Club** Roy Lancaster, Rebecca Prow and Matthew Biggs visit Jersey to discuss the pros and cons of coastal gardening. (Teletext) (70764)


6.50 **Cheers** Diane meets Fraser's formidable mother (TV) (Teletext) (8544)

7.00 **Roseanne** Roseanne and Dan invest in a friend's business. (Teletext) (TV) (76335)

7.30 **Just For Laughs Special** Ben Elton introduces comics from the Montreal comedy festival including Harry Enfield, Jack Dee, Penn and Teller and Eddie Izzard (TV) (1642069)



Diplomatic ties: Lenska, Waterman (9.00pm)



'Diplomatic ties: Lenska, Waterman (8.00pm)

00 Stary Lucky. Rula Lenska joins Dennis Waterman as the comedy-drama moves from Yorkshire to Budapest. (Teletext) (s) (1896)

00 News at Ten. (Teletext) and weather (77793) **10.30 London Tonight** (948847)

00 The London Programme. An investigation into safety standards in the capital's budget hotels (46980)

00 Tour of Duty. Drama about the Vietnam War (f) (333996)

05am The ITV Chart Show (3892942)

05 Whale On. Live music and a discussion on whether the age of consent for homosexual men should be reduced (8068300)

00 Pro-Best Classics. The boxing series takes a look at the early career of Chris Eubank (8836687)

05 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema. Movie news (2287774)

00 Austin City Limits. Exploration of the new country music scene (8454805)

00 Riviera. French drama series (13942)

00 ITN Morning News. (19223). Ends at **6.00**



2.35am Film: Underworld USA (1961 b/w). See Choice (793836). Ends at 2.25

Enders (8512118) 1.30 The E
2.00 Never the Twain (25897)
15111111: 2.00 B-k

JACOBS (#1083) \$6.00
No. 100 Tour de France
 (1974-1975) \$10.00
P.P. (#3915) \$12.00
U.S. Golf: Scottish Open
 Cycling (#289) \$3.50
The 1976 Motorsport
Grand Prix (#242) \$8.00
Swiss Open (#441) \$5.00
Swiss Open (#0527)
 (\$34.00)

the Galaxy Rangers
 Band (#52334) \$3.00
 (#2454) \$3.50
Stones Without Words
 (#24780) \$6.00
 (#37895) \$13.00
 (#24780) \$13.00
Daughters (#24784)
 (#281354) \$1.00

4.00 Dynasty (#36351) \$1.00
Biankey Black
 (#25337) \$3.50
Give Us A Clue
 (#45627) \$1.00
Nightbirds (#454) \$1.00
The Brothers
 (#75742) \$7.50
Never the Twin
 (#4766) \$6.00
EasterEggs (#25557) \$3.50
The Mafians (#25204) .90
Cash:
 (#18737) \$10.00
The B&B (#28373) \$10.00
Top of the Pops
 (#24073) \$11.00
Tip of the Pops
 (#35297) \$7.00
The Day of the Trifids
 (1983) singing Howard Keel (#45558)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

.60Item Jack in the Box (#7422) \$2.00
Rakion
 (#4589) \$1.00
Jack in the Box (#7422) \$1.00
Stones Without Words (#5424) \$1.50
Spy (#24780) \$1.50
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Without Words (#5151) \$2.50
Ahhh! (#170)
 (#24780) \$2.50
The Electric String Vase
 (#517173) \$.50
The Electric String Vase
 (#5338) \$6.00-7.00
 Fane (#4777)

LYNN STREET RECORDABLE PRICES

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and pass time

THE FINE

Only the

SKY SPORTS

8:00am Prime Bodies (7/11/98) 7.00p Motorsport
One Grand Prix (8/6/97) 4.00p Formula One
(\$7249) 5.00p Prime Bodies (8/6/06) 6.00p
NHLA: Doug Rader (11/24/98) 14.00p ATP
Tennis (10/17/98) 13.50p World Cup: International
Cricket Challenge (3/30/04) 6.30p
Sports Special (7/10/98) 7.00p Rugby Union
Show (Feb 97/98) 9.00p US Soccer Goal
(\$1441) 11.00p Jan Botham's International

FM Stereo and MW. 4.00pm Simon Brooks
(\$11.50) 6.00p Simon Mayo 9.00p Simon Bates
11.00 1 FM Summer Roadshow 12.30p
Night in the Advertison 6.00p News 93 6.30p
Show 11.00 John Peel (FM only from 6.15)

FM Stereo, 5.00pm Sarah Kennedy (9.00p)
Sports for Thought 7.00p Wake Up to Wigan
& Wigan's Place to Live 8.00p Wigan's Place
Ed Stewart 5.00pm John Dunn 7.00p The Move Out
to the Band. Fine Arts Press Ensemble 10.00
ensemble 1.00-4.00pm John Turner

6.00pm World Service 9.30p Benny Baker 10.00
Sports. Topic Resources 9-11: 9.15 Something
9.30 The Music Box, 9.45 Something to Think
Pup (10.30) Johnnie Walker with The WM
Club 10.00 News 1.10p SPSS World 2.00p
Late Teach (first part) 2.30p Popsicle 6.30p Euro

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195 Chamber Music Works
Manchesser
piano, performs Mendelssohn
(Piano Sonata in E, Op 6;
Schumann) (Fantasietische,
Op 12)

2.00 *1952 and the Archivist:* A song
recital given in 1982 by Teresa
Bergman, mezzo-soprano,
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(Lied, Tondiele);
Gunk (No quere to Seyllages;
Jole), (Turino (Vocalizations),
Op 74)

AD 15: 1063h/42/25m; 1069h/42/27m; MW-97-5-99-5. RADIO 2: MW-89-9-0.2. RADIO 3: MW-90-9-0.4. RADIO 4: 168h/42/15m; MW-92-4-9.8. RADIO 5:
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181h/42/33m. CLASSIC FM: MW-100-12. VIRGINE MW-121.5, 1197, 1242 kHz.

A Look Back at the Nineties, Radio 4, 11.00pm.
Assume it's New Years eve 1999 and then do a weekly satirical review
covering the previous 5 years. Have a guest star each week and get
the chief writers of *Spitting Image* to supply and perform the sketches.
And, finally, hire a sober-witted announcer to link the items. The
result is not as funny as the audience reaction suggests, but 1995, the
year in question, does have some bright spots. Probably the most
worst: Young Music Masters of the Year, the introduction of an Honesty
Act, and a pop quiz on new radio stations, featuring Music Was My
First Love FM, Kate Robbins and Chris Barrie, of *The Brits Empire*,
star.

Click, Click, Brrrr... Radio 5, 12.30pm.
If you have ever wondered what the chances for the telephone to stop
ringing just as you get it, this may provide the answer -- a play by
Joe Penard about a couch potato named Derek who gets sucked into
the telephone system and becomes a disembodied entity. There is
terrific support from the sound effects department for leading players
Rowland Rivron and Judy Pascoe.

Kuncush Gosling

8.50 *1952 and the Archivist:* A song
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AD

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FRIDAY JULY 9 1993

Swedish golfer beats rain to extend advantage in Scottish Open

Parnevik breezes to huge lead

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WHEN James Braid called in labourers, horses and carts to help him lay out the King's Course at Gleneagles in the Edwardian era, he wanted it to be a sporty test of golf. He did not want players to make sport of it. But this is what happened to what was regarded as Braid's masterpiece — or at least a part of it — in the second round of the Bell's Scottish Open yesterday.

As if Jesper Parnevik had not done enough damage to the par-70, 6739-yard course in his opening round, when he finished with a brilliant run of six birdies, he was at it again in his second round. Out early in the day when the skies were glooming, Parnevik ran up four birdies in his five closing holes.

He came back in 33, and as he had gone out in 33, this 66 combined with his first-round 64 enabled him to take the considerable lead of eight strokes after 36 holes.

"It is very difficult out there, particularly on those starting holes where you are playing into the wind," the 28-year-old Swede said. He was lucky. Later starters had to cope with torrential rain that was so heavy it was slowing balls down.

At the opening hole, Glenn Ralph had 140 yards for his second shot and hit a five-iron that only just got onto the putting surface.

"The rain knocked the balls down," Ralph said. It also caused a delay of nearly three hours soon after lunch that created a backlog that will not be cleared until early this morning.

Parnevik holed putts of 12, 15 and 30 feet for three of his four birdies in his closing run. The fourth came, as so many have done these past two days, from reaching the green of the par-18th in two.

"I am a very aggressive player, sometimes too aggressive," Parnevik said. "I always seem to go for the shot and sometimes that can be costly. I did it at Woburn, for example, and had two triple bogeys. I don't think I will change my tactics. I would like to try and make it to 100."

The garotting in the glen was continuing, meanwhile. Sandy Lyle plundered birdies from the 16th, 17th and 18th for a good 67. Barry Lane birdied the 14th, 15th and 18th. Fredrik Lindgren ran up four birdies and one bogey in his last five holes. Steven Richardson went birdie, bogey, eagle, bogey, birdie over the same holes, which total 1,829 yards. Mats Lanner birdied three of his last four holes. So it went on.



Swinging before the rain: Jesper Parnevik celebrates a successful birdie putt, one of six in a row, on the 17th at Gleneagles yesterday

Sam Torrance was better than anyone: better, even, than Parnevik. The man who seems inspired whenever a tournament is sponsored by a drinks manufacturer had two eagles and one birdie from the 14th and came home in 29. That gave him a 65, good enough for a 36-hole total of 138, eight behind Parnevik. Torrance has trodden in something lucky lately. He can do no wrong. Even being up for an hour in the night with his baby daughter Phoebe seems to make no difference. He has never been

happier or more contented. Best of all, his father, his guiding light and close friend, forecasts it will get better. "You'll be playing your best golf when you're over 40, Sam," Bob Torrance said.

After the first round, Torrance had spoken out about the way the course was set up, saying it had been tricked up. He said he thought the greens were too firm and had been cut too short and that some of the rough was too thick around certain greens and that some of the pin placements were a bit smelly too.

Robert Lee, who had a 71 and is level with Torrance eight strokes behind Parnevik, said he thought the positions on the 3rd and 5th were horrendous. There were fewer comments along these lines yesterday than the day before because the rain took some of the fire out of the putting surfaces. "It was easier to hold the balls on the green," Torrance said with obvious relief.

The three-hour interruption by rain threw an unwelcome spanner into the works, this tournament ends on Saturday so that the golfers can move on

and begin their attempts to qualify for the Open at various courses around Sandwich on Sunday and Monday. Thus there is no possibility of play being extended to a fifth day.

As the long, damp second day drew to a close and a pale sunlight bathed the Scottish hills, Michael Stewart, the tournament director, said those players who had not completed their second round would do so this morning starting at 7am. He hoped they would have finished by 9am, when play would start in the third round.

Early scores: GB and Ireland unless stated
180: J Parnevik (Swe), 64, 66, 182: R Lee, 67, 71: S Torrance, 73, 65, 138: C Mearns, 73, 67, 140: S Macdonald, 73, 67: A Lyle, 73, 67, 141: C O'Connor, 71, 73: R Smith, 73, 68, 142: D Clarke, 68, 73: G O'Leary, 73, 68, 143: B Lamm, 73, 68: S Richardson, 73, 71: J Haydon (Irel), 72, 72: C Gilbey, 71, 74, 145: A O'Connor, 72, 71: M Lamm (Swe), 72, 73: D Feary, 72, 72: W Wainwright, 73, 72: S Nicklaus, 69, 69, 78, 146: M A Marsh (S), 73: J Hoggan (Swe), 73, 73: R Wilson, 76, 70: P Broadhurst, 73, 70: B Barnes, 70, 73: G J Brand, 73, 73: P Bostock (S), 70, 72, 147: F Lindgren (Swe), 77, 70: D J Russell, 76, 72: J Bernal (Irel), 73, 74: D Watson, 69, 72, 75: H Cadd, 74, 71: C Camacho, 73, 74: F Mann, 75, 71.

Hill begs to be allowed to give his best

BY OLIVER HOLT

TACTFULLY and as diplomatically as possible, Damon Hill yesterday pleaded for a chance to be allowed to drive for victory in the British grand prix on Sunday, as the controversy over the Williams-Renault team orders rumbled on. It now seems certain that Hill, the No 2 driver behind Alain Prost, was told to follow the three-time world champion to the chequered flag in last weekend's French grand prix to add Prost's championship challenge.

It had been assumed team orders would be abandoned for Hill's home grand prix, but although Frank Williams, the team owner, had angrily made it plain he considered the matter closed earlier this week, his British driver said yesterday that he still did not know what his instructions would be.

"A lot of it is out of my hands," Hill said. "I drive for Williams, I have a contract with them and there are a lot of important considerations to bear in mind. I have to get the best result for the team, but at the same time I want to be able to give my best and show the best of myself."

"I hope the conditions will be there for me to give 100 per cent from start to finish. But I will not know whether I will be given that chance until the time comes."

It was clear from Hill's refusal to answer certain questions that those conditions had

not applied for the French race at Magny-Cours, but he scotched suggestions that Prost might return the favour for him on Sunday.

"As far as I know, there are no team orders as yet," Hill said. "But I cannot see a situation where Alain will be asked to come second."

Prost leads the championship by 12 points from Ayrton Senna. Williams is nervous about the whole issue of team orders in the British grand prix, especially when it concerns the possibility that Hill might be asked to defer to a French rival, and the man whom many hold responsible for Nigel Mansell's decision to leave the team at the end of last season for IndyCars in the United States.

Prost has not helped the team's cause by choosing this week to criticise the world champion. The plan was always for me and Nigel to drive together," Prost said. "But I think maybe he was too scared to drive with me, scared of the competition and that is why he took the decision to leave."

"He was in a very strong position at Williams and since he left he has been able to portray himself as some sort of martyr, which is 100 per cent inaccurate."

Magnificent men, page 33
Family honour, page 35
Frend on Friday, page 35

England meet victors in World Cup group

ENGLAND and Pakistan, who contested the last cricket World Cup final, have been drawn in the same group for the 1996 tournament. The two beaten semi-finalists from 1992 — South Africa and New Zealand — are also in the same round-robin section for a competition to be held on the Indian sub-continent.

Four qualify for the quarter-finals from each of two sections of six and England should not experience early problems. Their group will be completed by two associate members from next year's ICC Trophy in Kenya where Holland and Bangladesh will start as favourites.

Apart from keeping Pakistan and India the main hosts, apart from there was no seeding in the draw, made in London yesterday. Sri Lanka, who will also host several matches, have been placed in India's group with Australia, West Indies and Zimbabwe. With 12 countries taking part, the sixth World Cup will be the biggest yet. Venues and dates for the 37 matches have to be decided, but most of England's qualifying games will be in Pakistan.

GROUP A: Pakistan, England, New Zealand, South Africa, Associate members.
GROUP B: India, Sri Lanka, Australia, West Indies, Zimbabwe, Associate member.

NatWest draw, page 38

World-record entry for 1994 London Marathon

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE 1994 NutraSweet London Marathon will have a world-record entry of 36,500 runners and a new finish, along the Mall in front of Buckingham Palace. Negotiations are also taking place for members of the royal family to watch the race, which has become one of the highlights of the British sporting calendar.

They and television viewers in more than 50 countries would see Eamonn Martin attempt to repeat his victory in the men's race and Liz McColligan take part in the women's event with an unprecedented stream of international and club runners and joggers behind

them. Application forms for the race on Sunday, April 17, are available from today until September 17 from all branches of the TSB bank.

For the first time since the second race, staged in 1982, the finish has had to be moved from Westminster Bridge, which is undergoing repairs. The first London Marathon in 1981 finished on Constitution Hill, alongside Buckingham Palace.

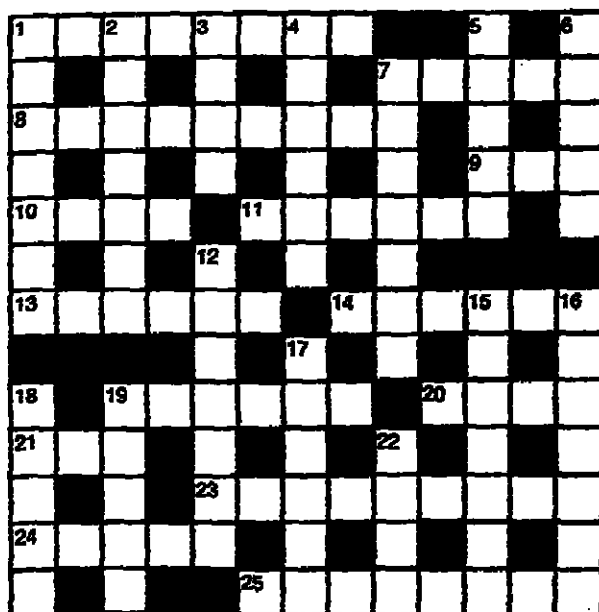
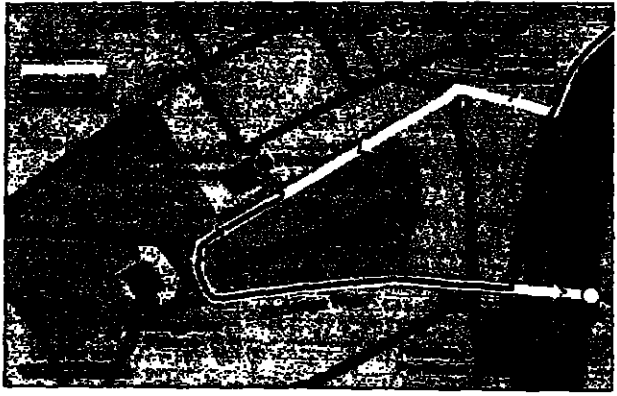
The new finish means the last two miles of the 26-mile, 385-yard course will extend along the Embankment to Parliament Square and runners will complete the final mile of the existing course in the reverse direction. The finish will be opposite St James's Palace.

Alan Storey, the general manager of

the race, said yesterday that the proposed course was 500 metres short at the moment and the full distance would be made up by using extra space either in east London or in the Surrey Docks.

There were 68,000 applications for the race this year with an entry of 35,820. The organisers know they can cope with 25,000 finishers and that only 69 per cent will complete the race, so the numbers can be increased for 1994.

There have been hundreds of requests from readers to become a member of the two teams representing The Times in the event. The successful applicants will be announced in The Times on Saturday August 7.



ACROSS

- 1 Abandon claim (4,4)
- 7 Flower part (5)
- 8 Night Watch artist (9)
- 9 Legal system (3)
- 10 Dull pain (4)
- 11 In the mind (6)
- 13 Constricted (6)
- 14 Take position (4,2)
- 19 Housefly larva (6)
- 20 Space (4)
- 21 Garden weeder (3)
- 23 Tractable (6,3)
- 24 Twelve (5)
- 25 Keep under surveillance (5,3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3142

- ACROSS: 7 Seer 8 Initial 9 Tinkle 10 Tighus 11 Pair
12 Uppercut 15 Newsreel 17 Both 18 Preach 21 Parent
23 Parmesan 23 Lift
- DOWN: 1 Celibate 2 Broker 3 Sinecure 4 Kilt 5 Finger
6 Part 13 Polo pony 14 Untangle 16 Smarmy 17 Burble
19 Road 20 Host

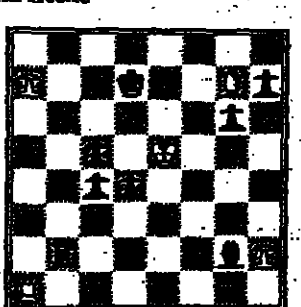
DOWN

- 1 Good deal (7)
- 2 Motherball substance (7)
- 3 School bedroom (4)
- 4 Cold season (6)
- 5 Tip over (5)
- 6 Circus comic (5)
- 7 High American hat (7)
- 12 Hardon (7)
- 15 Dark sour cherry (7)
- 16 Round of applause (7)
- 17 Thomas Hardy county (6)
- 18 Skold (5)
- 19 Soprano/contralto (5)
- 22 Anti aircraft fire (4)

By Raymond Keene

Over the years, London has been a Mecca for chess. This position is from the game Sadler — Hodgson, Watson, Parley & Williams & City of London Corporation International 1988. How can black deal with the advanced white a-pawn?

For information on any aspect of The Times World Championship Match and the City of London Chess Festival call 071-588 8223.



Solution on page 38
Championship Chess, page 7

By Philip Howard

CASSIRI
a. A potato liquor
b. A camel's nosebag
c. A feud of honour

SPLENICULUS
a. Detached bit of the spleen
b. Bad-tempered
c. Splendid but ridiculous

LUKIKO
a. Japanese undershirt
b. A child's game with knots
c. The Bugandan parliament

QUAWK
a. Black-crowned night-heron
b. An elementary particle
c. A cobbler's awl

Answers on page 38

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